

IOWA STATE PREVIEW



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



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OCTOBER 18, 2008 | VOLUME 28 | NO. 13

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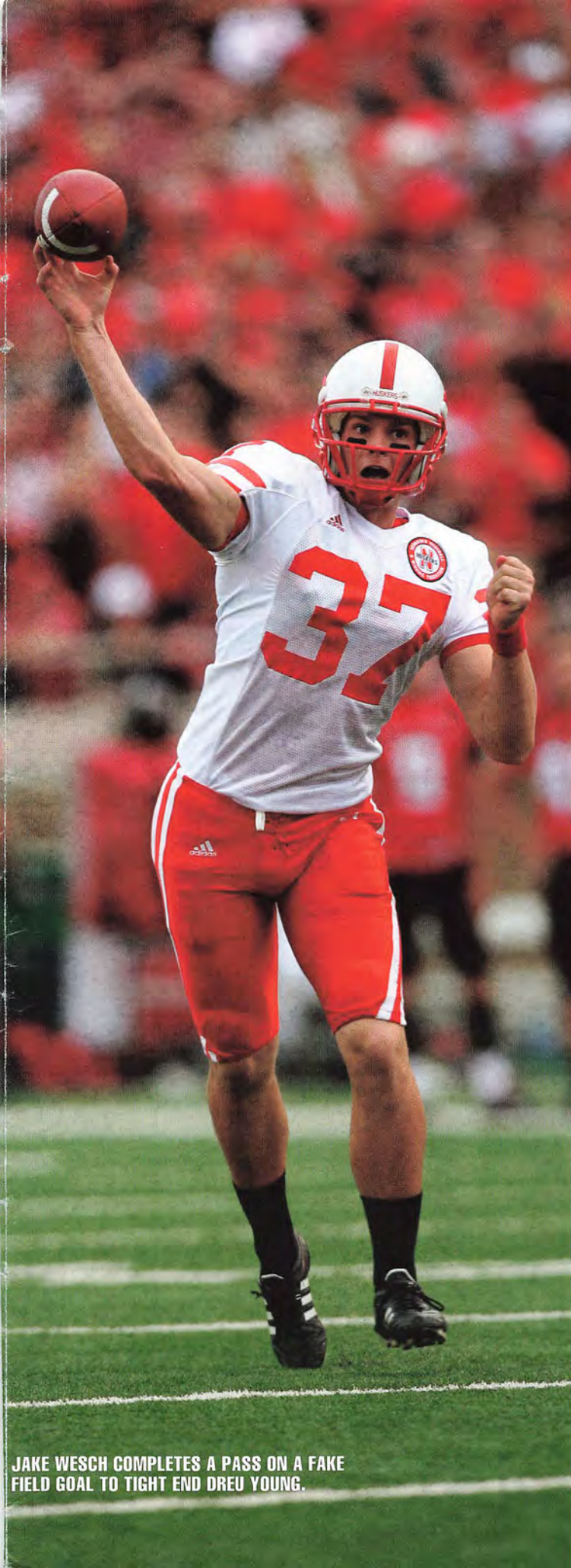
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Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

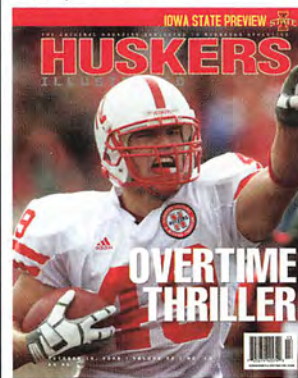
HUSKERS

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ON THE COVER

Sophomore tight end Dreu Young of Cozad, Neb., celebrates after catching a touchdown 2-yard touchdown pass from Joe Ganz in Nebraska's 37-31 overtime loss to No. 7 Texas Tech. The Huskers fell just short of winning their first road game against a top 10 opponent since 1997.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



JAKE WESCH COMPLETES A PASS ON A FAKE FIELD GOAL TO TIGHT END DREU YOUNG.

MAKING GIANT GAINS

Husker offense clicks after big first downs



THE HUSKERS MADE SOME giant gains in Saturday's overtime loss to No. 7 Texas Tech.

No, I'm not talking about the recruiting battle and I'm not talking about the mental warfare of restoring confidence.

While much will be made of Nebraska's ability to convert 7-of-12 third down opportunities, it was the Cornhuskers' dominance on first down that allowed the Huskers to run 80 plays and chew up over 40 minutes on the clock, while the highly touted Texas Tech offense was limited to just 48 plays and less than 20 minutes of possession time.

Those third downs are much easier to convert when you're averaging over six yards per play on first down.

Nebraska ran 37 plays on first down against Texas Tech and showed balance by calling 21 passing plays and 16 rushing plays.

When the Huskers ran the ball, they averaged 4.9 yards per carry on first down. When they went to the air, Ganz posted even better numbers, averaging 7.1 yards per play. The senior QB, who finished with one of the best days ever for a Husker quarterback (36-of-44 passing for 349 yards and two TDs), went 18-for-20 for 150 yards with one sack on first down.

That would be difficult for a quarterback to accomplish without defenders. This was key because Nebraska's offense proved to be their best defense. Especially when you

consider that Texas Tech scored 31 points in regulation after holding the ball for just 19-plus minutes.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out how much versatility a coach can have when he's calling plays for second-and-4, compared to second-and-10 (or worse).

It's no coincidence the Huskers had their most balanced attack of the year on Saturday. The Husker offensive line, which has been blamed for Nebraska's running woes, opened several large holes and even caught the attention of Texas Tech coach Mike Leach.

"Nebraska did a great job coaching I thought, and I thought their team came in really inspired," Leach said. "And I'll tell you, I thought their o-line did a great job – just like Nebraska o-line of old, I thought."

While a win would have done wonders for the program, the Huskers didn't do much wrong against the Red Raiders.

The question now, is can the Huskers turn in consecutive solid performances – something they haven't been able to do yet this year.

If the Huskers can execute in their next two contests at Iowa State and home against Baylor, Nebraska has a great chance to win both games and improve to 5-3 before heading to Norman to face the Sooners. **N**

Send us your comments or story ideas to huskersillustrated@gmail.com.

HUSKERS

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Big Red Mailbag

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HOW ABOUT AN UPDATE?

I've truly enjoyed the new format for Huskers Illustrated. Thank you for featuring former Husker Greats in your "Catching Up With" feature. I've missed reading this over the past few years. One request though, can you please publish an updated roster since I haven't seen one since the yearbook, which did not include freshmen?

Rich Christopherson
Vancouver, Wash.

Rich, thanks for the comments.

We've had a few requests for a complete roster. Check out the complete roster on page 9 of this issue.

Thanks for reading!

A MAGAZINE WE CAN LOVE

We the fans of the Huskers stand high and tall with pride in our Nebraska athletics. We are the greatest fans in this world because we possess the biggest hearts. We love the BIG RED

athletic programs for the fact that they're full of the same winning qualities we have in ourselves. Now I have finally found a magazine that any/all Husker fanatics can refer to as "the winning magazine." The same dedication I see all across

Nebraska and the fans of NU is the dedication that I see in Huskers Illustrated. Thanks for giving the fans a magazine of Husker character.

Cornhead Crazy,
Devin L. Chapman
El Dorado, Kan.

Cornhead Corner

definition: CORNHEAD, corn-head – noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



GARY IACUONE says people in Connecticut can't understand why he's such a huge Husker fan.

"I have been a fan since 1983," Iacuone said. "I have been out there several times – it's the atmosphere, the people, it's something about them, just the way they play football. A number of my friends are now Husker fans."

Iacuone said one of his favorite things about being a Husker fan was talking to his father about Nebraska football. "I knew he thought I was crazy. I used to call my father when I was at work to get the scores, he never let me down. He used to keep me updated on what was going on. He knew what it meant to me to be passionate about something. Even though my Dad is no longer with me there is something special I have with him and the Huskers."

ARE YOU A CORNHEAD? Send us your story along with a photo to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of Huskers Illustrated.

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FINDING UNITY

Tough times can affect team unity. But coach **BO PELINI** has taken steps to ensure his team's unity, including reinstating the aptly named Unity Council.

"I don't know why we haven't done it before, holding your peers accountable," said offensive guard **MIKE HUFF**, one of 16 members on the Unity Council.

Seniors **LYDON MURTHA** and **MATT SLAUSON** also represent the offensive line.

All of the members are seniors, in fact, except, linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD** and safety **LARRY ASANTE**, both of whom are juniors. The members were chosen by a vote of players at each position area. Dillard was elected by the linebackers, as was **CODY GLENN**, while Asante and cornerback **ARMANDO MURILLO** were elected by the defensive backs.

Actually, Nebraska has done it before.

TOM OSBORNE established a Unity Council with the help of then-team psychologist Jack Stark in the early 1990s. But the Unity Council was discontinued when **BILL CALLAHAN** replaced **FRANK SOLICH** as head coach in 2004.

Among other things, the Unity Council is involved in establishing team rules. "Coaches can only see so much. We're around each other all the time," Huff said.

The group also serves as an intermediary between players and coaches.

"Definitely, if you don't want to be singled out," senior wide receiver **TODD PETERSON** said. "The way we had things before, a lot of players weren't comfortable going up and talking to the head coach if they had a concern. I think it's been a lot better with Bo.

"He's got an open-door policy. Personally, I feel comfortable just going up and talking

about anything. But it's something for guys if they have a concern, something's not right, kind of a way to be that voice for the team."

Peterson also is on the Unity Council, along with **NATE SWIFT**, another wide receiver.

"I think all the guys on the Unity Council are tight, good friends," said Swift. "I think being on that brings us closer, each position closer, just the whole team together."

Each night during pre-season practice, a member of the Council spoke to the team, "letting everyone know who you are, where you come from, what you're all about, so more people can relate to you. It's nice to get guys up there, telling their story."

"Those are kind of your guys," junior defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh said. "You speak to them and then they go and speak with Coach Pelini."

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NOT GOOD AT WATCHING

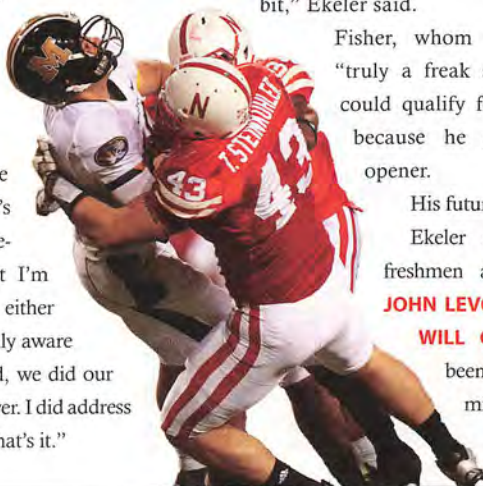
At some point, **MARLON LUCKY**'s playing career will be over, in all likelihood following an NFL career. That's been a "big dream" since he was small. When he's finished, he'll have to watch, to be a fan. Right now, however, "I wouldn't be a good fan," he said one day last spring. "I would rather play football than be a fan."

He was asked what he liked most about playing football. "Just being out there in the middle of the field with people screaming your name," said Lucky. "I'm not going to say I love being the center of attention. I think it's more the fans because they get into it. It's just rowdy. I love it. I think that's a big reason I love it (football)."

DIRTY PLAY

Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel called Nebraska "one of the dirtiest teams I've played." Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** and Missouri coach Gary Pinkel discussed the matter on the Sunday after the game. "We communicated with Missouri and we investigated it and addressed the allegations and, at this point, it's a moot issue," Pelini said during the Big 12 coaches' teleconference on Monday. "It's over."

Pressed on the matter, Pelini said: "It's a lot of he-said-he-said, you know what I'm saying? I don't think either coaching staff was really aware of it and ... like I said, we did our investigation and it's over. I did address it with the team, and that's it."



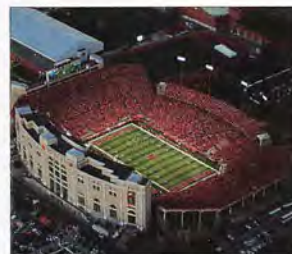
FRESHMAN UPDATE

Even though he saw action in the opening game against Western Michigan, true freshman linebacker **SEAN FISHER** could be redshirted, according to linebackers coach **MIKE EKELER**, speaking at the weekly Big Red Breakfast in Omaha on the Friday before the Missouri game. Fisher "is banged up a little bit," Ekeler said.

Fisher, whom Ekeler described as "truly a freak show of an athlete," could qualify for a medical redshirt because he played in only the opener.

His future is bright, Ekeler said. Ekeler said that two other freshmen are redshirting: safety **JOHN LEVORSON** and linebacker **WILL COMPTON**, who has been listed as the No. 2 middle linebacker.

SIDELINES



COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS

Bryan Burwell, sports columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on Memorial Stadium: "Even if its renovated state, with fancy glass-enclosed luxury boxes, digital scoreboards and high-tech artificial turf field, it remains as one of college football's grandest gridiron houses. Modern football stadiums dazzle you with their architecture and creature comforts. Memorial Stadium wins you over with its old-school simplicity."



NOT SO DIFFERENT

BO PELINI hasn't had many surprises in his first season as head coach, at least not as they relate to the job. "It's been kind of what I envisioned," he said. "I don't approach it much different than I did when I was the defensive coordinator. I prepare much the same way. I've got some duties that are different, obviously."

"I speak to you guys (reporters) more often."

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TOO MANY FLAGS

Nebraska's 14 penalties in the Missouri game tied for the most in school history. The Cornhuskers were penalized 14 times previously, the most recent at Missouri in 1951. Though of no consolation, the 101 yards in penalties were not a record. The single-game record for penalty yardage is 141, on 10 penalties against Penn State in 1980.

"We've got to play more disciplined, and once again, that comes from me and the staff," coach Bo Pelini said during the Big 12 coaches teleconference the following Monday. "I can't really comment on officiating, but we need to play smarter."

"It's not only the personal fouls but putting ourselves in first-and-15 and some of the things that happened there. We need to be more disciplined and take care of that aspect of it because it's too many penalties." In marked contrast, Missouri had one penalty.

PENALTIES

PENALTIES, SEASON.....	RECORD
2003 89-710 (13 games)	10-3
2005 89-693 (12 games)	8-4
2002 85-784 (14 games)	7-7
1988 82-702 (12 games*)	11-2
1949 79-550 (9 games)	4-5
2007 77-589 (12 games)	5-7
1986 76-657 (11 games)	10-2
1994 76-670 (12 games)	13-0
2004 75-561 (11 games)	5-6
1992 74-612 (11 games)	9-3

PENALTY YARDAGE, SEASON RECORD

2002 85-784 (14)	7-7
2003 89-710 (13)	10-3
1988 82-702 (12)	11-2
2005 89-693 (12)	8-4
1970 72-683 (10)	11-0
2001 69-674 (12)	11-2
1994 76-670 (12)	13-0
1986 76-657 (11)	10-2
1971 60-634 (12)	13-0
1989 71-634 (11)	10-2

*Official NCAA statistics did not include bowl games prior to 2002

SIDELINES



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

NFL analyst John Madden had kind words for former Cornhusker **STEWART BRADLEY** during a recent Sunday Night Football telecast. Bradley is in his second season with the Philadelphia Eagles, their starting middle linebacker.

"I really like this guy. He's a good kid," Madden said. "He can be the middle linebacker of this Philadelphia Eagles team for 10 years."

MORE MACLIN

Cornhusker tight end Mike McNeill can't be accused of consorting with the enemy, even though he communicates regular with Missouri wide receiver and kick returner Jeremy Maclin. The two were high school teammates in Kirkwood, Mo. In fact, they grew up together and were classmates since kindergarten at Westchester Elementary.

"We usually shoot each other text messages before games, saying 'good luck' or whatever," McNeill said the week before the Missouri game.

There was no "good luck" exchange then. But they did talk.



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NEBRASKA ROSTER

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown	#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown
1	Brooks, Chris	WR	6-2	210	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.	45	Whaley, Alonzo	LB	6-1	225	Fr.	Madisonville, Texas
2	Culbert, Major	S	6-0	205	Jr.	Harbor City, Calif.	46	Dixon, Taylor	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	Wauweta, Neb.
3	Witt, Patrick	QB	6-4	225	RFr.	Wylie, Texas	47	Hetzer, Tyson	TE	6-6	250	Jr.	Redding, Calif.
3	Lee, Zac	QB	6-2	210	So.	San Francisco, Calif.	47	Yancy, William	DE	6-4	245	RFr.	Glendale, Ariz.
3	Thenarse, Rickey	S	6-0	195	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif.	48	Legate, Tyler	FB	5-10	220	So.	Neligh, Neb.
4	Asante, Larry	S	6-1	210	Jr.	Alexandria, Va.	48	Smith, Marcus	LB	6-1	195	Fr.	Crete, Neb.
5	Lucky, Marlon	IB	6-0	215	Sr.	North Hollywood, Calif.	49	Foxhoven, Tanner	LB	6-3	210	Fr.	Crofton, Neb.
5	West, Anthony	CB	6-0	200	So.	San Diego, Calif.	49	Young, Dreu	TE	6-4	245	So.	Cozad, Neb.
6	Cooper, Khiry	WR	6-2	180	Fr.	Shreveport, La.	50	Toailoa, Quentin	DL	6-4	300	Fr.	Highland, Calif.
6	Murillo, Armando	CB	6-0	190	Sr.	Tampa, Fla.	51	Compton, Will	LB	6-2	230	Fr.	Bonne Terre, Mo.
7	Spano, Kody	QB	6-2	210	Fr.	Stephenville, Texas	52	Dillard, Phillip	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Tulsa, Okla.
7	Washington, Latravis	LB	6-3	225	So.	Bradenton, Fla.	53	Wortman, Tyler	LB	6-3	235	Sr.	Grand Island, Neb.
8	Cassidy, Austin	S	6-1	205	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb.	54	Koehler, Colton	LB	6-1	230	Jr.	Harvard, Neb.
8	Henry, Will	WR	6-5	220	So.	El Paso, Texas	54	McShane, Max	OL	6-6	290	Fr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
9	Lester, Ben	WR	5-10	170	RFr.	Tecumseh, Neb.	55	Steinkuhler, Baker	DL	6-6	290	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
10	Helu Jr., Roy	IB	6-0	215	So.	Danville, Calif.	56	Barfield, Shukree	DT	6-4	290	Sr.	Camden, N.J.
11	Gilleylen, Curenski	WR	6-0	210	RFr.	Leander, Texas	56	Baumgartner, Justin	LS	6-2	245	Sr.	Cheyenne, Wyo.
11	Rogers, Justin	DB	5-11	180	Fr.	Birmingham, Ala.	57	Callaway, Steve	LS	5-9	215	Fr.	Danville, Calif.
12	Ganz, Joe	QB	6-1	210	Sr.	Palos Heights, Ill.	58	Caputo, Mike	OL	6-1	275	RFr.	Omaha, Neb.
12	Osborne, Courtney	DB	6-3	175	Fr.	Garland, Texas	58	Jackson, Justin	DL	6-3	255	Fr.	Roca, Neb.
13	Smith, P.J.	DB	6-2	205	Fr.	River Ridge, La.	59	Thorson, Brian	OL	6-3	280	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
14	Blue, Anthony	CB	5-10	180	So.	Cedar Hill, Texas	61	Huff, Mike	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Ralston, Neb.
14	Ward, Lester	IB	6-3	215	Fr.	Brenham, Texas	61	Manninger, Matt	LB	6-1	225	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
15	Davis, Beau	QB	6-4	180	Sr.	Venice, Calif.	62	Christensen, Andy	OL	6-3	305	Sr.	Bennington, Neb.
15	Dennard, Alfonzo	DB	5-10	190	Fr.	Rochelle, Ga.	62	McClure, Mychael	LB	6-5	210	Fr.	Wisner, Neb.
16	Ebke, Jim	QB	6-0	210	So.	Lincoln, Neb.	63	Martin, Ben	DT	6-4	275	So.	Lincoln, Neb.
16	Levorson, John	DB	6-3	190	Fr.	Crete, Neb.	63	Meyer, Derek	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Campbell, Neb.
17	Peterson, Todd	WR	6-4	215	Sr.	Grand Island, Neb.	65	McDermott, Colin	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
17	Williams, Josh	DE	6-4	225	Fr.	Denton, Texas	65	Smith, Mike	OL	6-6	285	So.	Las Vegas, Nev.
18	Holt, Menelik	WR	6-4	220	Jr.	San Diego, Calif.	66	Barrett, Cruz	OL	6-4	310	So.	Daytona Beach, Fla.
18	Ruiz, Zach	QB	6-3	210	Fr.	Beatrice, Neb.	66	McDermott, Conor	DE	6-2	230	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
18	Sullivan, Shawn	CB	5-10	190	RFr.	Brenham, Texas	67	Hickman, Jacob	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Bakersfield, Calif.
19	Castille, Quentin	IB	6-1	245	So.	La Porte, Tex.	67	Meginnis, Sam	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
20	Dean, Jase	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Bridgeport, Neb.	68	Molek, Josh	DL	6-3	235	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
20	Kunalic, Adi	PK	6-0	185	So.	Fort Worth, Texas	68	Williams, Keith	OL	6-5	305	So.	Florissant, Mo.
21	Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-1	195	So.	Glendale, Ariz.	69	Iske, Cory	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
21	Marlowe, Tim	WR	5-10	160	Fr.	Youngstown, Ohio	70	Anderson, Kenny	DE	6-2	235	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
22	Wald, Mason	DB	5-11	205	Fr.	Birmingham, Ala.	70	Slauson, Matt	OL	6-5	320	Sr.	Colorado Springs, Colo.
23	Thorell, Lance	CB	6-1	190	RFr.	Loomis, Neb.	71	Stoddard, Graham	LB	6-2	215	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
24	Paul, Niles	WR	6-1	210	So.	Omaha, Neb.	72	Burkes, Jaivorio	OL	6-5	325	So.	Phoenix, Ariz.
24	Watson, Adam	S	6-0	190	So.	Lincoln, Neb.	73	Burke, Keifer	DT	6-3	220	Fr.	Maxwell, Neb.
25	Reed, Kyler	TE	6-3	220	Fr.	Shawnee, Kan.	73	Jones, D.J.	OL	6-5	305	So.	Omaha, Neb.
25	Wallace, Jeremy	RB	6-1	220	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	74	Henry, Ricky	OL	6-4	305	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
26	Osborne, Steven	WR	6-4	185	Fr.	Garland, Texas	75	Lingenfelter, Luke	DE	6-4	255	RFr.	Plainview, Neb.
27	Damkroger, Jonathon	P/PK	6-1	180	So.	Firth, Neb.	76	Murtha, Lydon	OL	6-7	315	Sr.	Hutchinson, Minn.
28	Hagg, Eric	CB	6-2	200	So.	Peoria, Ariz.	77	Choi, Seung Hoon	OL	6-2	300	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
28	Jones, Austin	IB	5-10	205	RFr.	Centennial, Colo.	78	Jones, Marcel	OL	6-7	310	RFr.	Phoenix, Ariz.
29	Okafor, Collins	IB	6-1	195	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	79	Thompson, Brandon	OL	6-6	295	Fr.	The Woodlands, Texas
30	Hays, Mike	FB	6-1	230	RFr.	Papillion, Neb.	80	Harvey, David	DE	6-4	265	Jr.	La Plata, Md.
31	Covey, Nick	DE	6-2	250	Jr.	Glendale, Ariz.	80	Hill, Ryan	TE	6-3	245	RFr.	Arvada, Colo.
32	Mendoza, Marcus	IB	5-10	185	RFr.	Houston, Texas	81	Cotton, Ben	TE	6-6	230	Fr.	Ames, Iowa
33	O'Hanlon, Matt	S	5-11	195	Jr.	Bellevue, Neb.	82	Cammack, Wes	WR	5-11	195	Jr.	DeWitt, Neb.
33	Pillen, David	LS	5-11	230	Fr.	Sugar Land, Texas	82	O'Leary, T.J.	LS	6-1	235	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
34	Glenn, Cody	LB	6-0	235	Sr.	Rusk, Texas	83	Bechtold, Damon	TE	6-4	215	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.
35	Holt, Matt	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Lee's Summit, Mo.	85	Hyland, KC	WR	6-6	195	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
35	Makovicka, Jordan	RB	5-10	170	Fr.	Ulysses, Neb.	85	Klingelhoefer, Faron	DE	6-2	255	Fr.	Amherst, Neb.
36	Lawson, Thomas	FB	6-0	250	Sr.	Parker, Colo.	87	Swift, Nate	WR	6-2	200	Sr.	Hutchinson, Minn.
36	May, Mathew	S	6-1	195	RFr.	Imperial, Neb.	88	Martin, Jay	TE	6-2	215	RFr.	Waverly, Neb.
37	Thomsen, Kevin	FB	6-2	240	RFr.	Elkhorn, Neb.	88	Sievers, Clayton	DE	6-4	255	Sr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
37	Wesch, Jake	PK	6-1	205	Sr.	North Bend, Neb.	89	Santin, Jonathon	DE	6-3	225	RFr.	Fullerton, Neb.
39	Blatchford, Justin	DB	6-1	185	Fr.	Ponca, Neb.	89	Teafatiller, Hunter	TE	6-3	240	Sr.	Kingsburg, Calif.
39	Glassman, Dan	DE	6-4	245	So.	Omaha, Neb.	90	Henery, Alex	PK	6-2	175	So.	Omaha, Neb.
40	Lawrence, Blake	LB	6-2	225	So.	Shawnee Mission, Kan.	90	Moore, Terrence	DT	6-3	275	RFr.	New Orleans, La.
41	Gillaspie, Aaron	FB	6-2	240	So.	Littleton, Colo.	92	Fahie, Tyrone	DE	6-3	255	So.	Virginia Beach, Va.
41	Grove, Thomas	LB	6-2	225	So.	Arlington, Neb.	93	Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	300	Jr.	Portland, Ore.
42	Camarata, Joseph	LB	5-10	225	Fr.	Overland Park, Kan.	94	Crick, Jared	DT	6-6	280	RFr.	Cozad, Neb.
42	Fisher, Sean	LB	6-6	225	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	95	Allen, Pierre	DE	6-5	265	So.	Denver, Colo.
43	Moravec, Brent	FS	6-0	180	Fr.	Grand Island, Neb.	96	Maher, Brett	P/PK	6-0	160	Fr.	Kearney, Neb.
43	Steinkuhler, Ty	DT	6-3	280	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb.	96	Meredith, Cameron	DE	6-4	250	Fr.	Santa Ana, Calif.
44	Kreikemeier, Micah	LB	6-3	210	Fr.	West Point, Neb.	97	Titchener, Dan	P	6-0	200	Sr.	Cheyenne, Wyo.
44	McNeill, Mike	TE	6-4	240	So.	Kirkwood, Mo.	98	Potter, Zach	DE	6-7	280	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
45	Makovicka, Justin	FB	6-1	240	So.	Ulysses, Neb.	99	Turner, Barry	DE	6-3	265	Sr.	Antioch, Tenn.

2MinuteDrill



Lance Thorell: Loomis, NE



The home of Mike and Kristi Thorell was a happening place in Loomis on the night of the Nebraska-New Mexico State game. Mike was at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln watching son Lance, a redshirted freshman defensive back. But Kristi was

at home following a volleyball tournament in which daughter, Lexie, had played, watching the football game on pay-per-view. Others were there watching, as well. "I guess about half the high school," Lance said.

Cornhusker football is big in Loomis, like it is in every one of the state's communities, large and small. But it was especially big on this night because Lance Thorell was on the field to start the game, when Nebraska came out in its "dime" package.

On the Monday before the game, Cornhusker defensive backs coach Marvin Sanders told Thorell to make sure he knew the responsibilities of the "dime" back. Anthony West was injured and he, Thorell, would be stepping in. "I didn't sleep much that whole week," Lance said. "I was always up watching film, trying to take in as much as I could about the 'dime' position. I spent quite a bit of time up in the film room, getting ready for that game.

"I didn't want that opportunity to slip away."

It didn't. Thorell was credited with eight tackles, second on the team.

"I've heard a whole bunch of stories about how crazy Loomis was," said Thorell.

And not just at his house. "I got a text message from one of my cousins after the game and it said, 'Our house is on fire and it's only the first defensive play,'" Thorell said. **N**

LANCE THORELL

6-1, 190, Redshirted Freshman, DB

Hometown: Loomis, Neb.

County: Phelps

Population: 366 (2007)

Distance from Lincoln: 196 miles

Nebraska football letterman:

David Deale, C (1988-90)

Dennis Thorell, CB (1965-66)

Not-so-great expectations:

"Actually, we probably have less pressure coming from a small-town school because we're really not expected to do well. Living in a small town all your life, playing eight-man football, coming to this big of a league, people are always doubting you. So if you do fail, it's kind of expected, I think. But if you do happen to break through and do a good job, people are definitely there to support you."



SIDELINES

facebook

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS

We're not too proud to admit we want some new friends - not that there's anything wrong with our old ones.

Whether you're a fan of the new facebook or the old facebook, any Husker fan can join the official *Huskers Illustrated Magazine* group on facebook.

See what the fuss is about. This new group is already approaching 500 members. This is yet another place to find Husker news and keep up to date with your Husker friends.



WE'RE ON ITUNES

The new Huskers Illustrated Radio Show, sponsored by the Nebraska Lottery, is now available as a podcast on Apple's iTunes Store.

Husker fans can now download the weekly show to their MP3 player and take it with them.

The show, hosted by Chris Schmidt features notable guests from around the country and provides recruiting updates and pre-game analysis. The show can also be heard for free at HuskersIllustrated.com.



THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Chizik learns from rookie season

THERE WAS STILL disappointment in Gene Chizik's voice the Monday after his team let a 20-0 halftime lead slip into a 35-33 loss. But the one thing Iowa State's second-year coach wasn't doing was giving in to that feeling.

Chalk that up to the experience he got as a rookie head coach in 2008.

"Last year, it was a whirlwind," said Chizik, the former Texas defensive coordinator. There's so many moving parts and so many issues. I'm glad I'm past it, I can tell you that.

"Just the time management part, with trying to be a football coach and trying to be a manager of 125 guys, and trying to do all of the administrative things that go with being a head coach – it was quite an experience, to be honest with you."

Chizik's first club started off 0-2, including a setback to NCAA Championship Subdivision member Northern Iowa. But ISU progressed to the point that over a four-game stretch in the final five it led No. 4 Oklahoma at halftime (before losing 17-7), gave No. 13 Missouri a tussle in Columbia before falling 42-28, and beat Kansas State and Colorado.

The 2008 Cyclones were 2-3 after the loss to Kansas, but in addition to leading that game in the fourth quarter were tied against Iowa and UNLV in the final 15 minutes before coming up short.

That's a sure sign of continued progress, as well as Chizik's growth in the position.

"I was always worried about one side of the ball as a defensive coordinator. Now ... you want to watch your own team in all three phases to make sure we're on key and we're doing the best things we can do to give our players a chance to win," he said. Believe it or not, there's much more film watching. You have to manage your time well, let's put it that way. I think that was a huge challenge for me.

"I'm better at it this year, because it's more of a routine."

The first league games of the season offered more proof about where the Big 12's strength lies. The six winning teams rolled up 58, 56, 52, 49, 38 and 35 points. Three of the losers had at least 28.

►"You have to have a thick skin to line up and get ready to play because there's another great quarterback or great team coming each week," **COLORADO** coach Dan Hawkins said. "It's always been my philosophy you win with defense. Ultimately, in some of those games you've got to run the football. Maybe when you're spectacular on offense, maybe you can counteract that."

The nation's top nine scoring teams included six from the Big 12 – No. 2 Missouri, No. 3 Oklahoma State, No. 4 Oklahoma, No. 5 Texas Tech, No. 6 Texas and No. 9 Kansas State. All but the Wildcats won their opening league contest.

►First-year **TEXAS** defensive coordinator Will Muschamp, who's considered by many to be a hot commodity for the next round of head coaching vacancies, has wasted no time getting that unit on the same page. In their first five games, the Longhorns never allowed more than 14 points in a game.

"You can tell the effort is there and they're disciplined with their responsibilities," **OKLAHOMA** Coach Bob Stoops said. "They mix things up well. Will has definitely had an impact. It's obvious to everybody."

It's also obvious that Muschamp's boss is thrilled by what he's seen. After a convincing win at **COLORADO**, Brown was so tickled his club's start that he was able to make light of his wife, Sally, being unable to attend the Oct. 4 game because she'd broken an arm and gashed her head while hiking in the Boulder area earlier in the day.

"I know we don't release injury reports

until Friday, but I am going to say that it looks good for her to make the game on Saturday," he said about the Longhorns' contest against Oklahoma.

►**BAYLOR** coach Art Briles was definitive when asked whether his team was able to discover any weaknesses in **OKLAHOMA** while losing to the top-ranked Sooners 49-17.

"We certainly didn't expose any chinks in the armor, if there are any," Briles said. "They didn't disappoint."

In back-to-back games against TCU and Baylor, Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford threw for a combined 355 first-quarter yards, and after five games the Sooners combined first-quarter advantage was 103-3.

►Through five games, **MISSOURI**'s defense had four interception returns for touchdowns – all by linebackers.

►**KANSAS**' win at Iowa State was its fifth straight on the road in Big 12 play. It also marked the fourth time in five games this season the Jayhawks had at least two receivers get 100 yards.

►Dez Bryant's three touchdown receptions in **OKLAHOMA STATE**'s 56-28 win against Texas A&M marked the third time in five games he'd pulled that trifecta. Bryant also hauled in three TD passes against Troy and Houston.

►During a 38-14 loss to **TEXAS**, **COLORADO** kicker Aric Goodman tied a school record he wanted no part of by missing three field goals.

►The 10 catches **IOWA STATE** receiver R.J. Sumrall had against **KANSAS** was the most by a Cyclone since J.J. Moses got 11 against Nebraska in 2000.

►**BAYLOR**'s loss to **OKLAHOMA** dropped it to 0-4 all-time against top-ranked Big 12 opponents. The combined scores of those games: 205-27.



Mike Caputo

6-1, 275, Redshirted Freshman, Center, Omaha, Neb.

Officially, Mike Caputo stands 6-1 and weighs 275 pounds. In fact, he's a half-inch over 6-feet tall, he says, and he weighs on the downside of 270 pounds.

"Thank God, they rounded it up for me," he said with a laugh.

Caputo isn't particularly big for a major college center. But that's one of the reasons he walked on at Nebraska. The main reason, of course, is that he grew up watching the Cornhuskers and wanting to play for them.

Beyond that, however, "I knew that even with my size I could still play," he said. "People would look at me as if I couldn't, but I knew I could."

"So I kind of wanted to show them."

Last season, Caputo showed 6-4, 300-pound defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, against whom he lined up on the scout team during practice.

"He's not a big guy at all," said Suh. "But one advantage (he has) that I hate, he's shorter than me and he can get under me quickly. He's a great player. I mean, most people wouldn't take a chance on him. But he definitely can play."

Going against Caputo in practice made him better, Suh said, "because having someone shorter I had to make sure my pad level was low enough. Basically, if I can be beneath him, I can be beneath any center I go against."



Hi: What's your favorite video game?

CAPUTO: I don't play video games. I'm not a big video game guy.

Hi: What's the most difficult part of being a walk-on?

CAPUTO: I don't think there's really that much difference once you get here. I think it's a bigger deal coming out of high school as a recruit, more of an honor to get a scholarship. Then, of course, your school is paid for, so obviously it's a tuition thing.

Hi: What do you think you'll be doing 10 years from now?

CAPUTO: I'm trying to figure out a major right now, so I'm not really sure. I was thinking about maybe teaching, like a PE teacher.

Hi: Which is more difficult, run blocking or pass blocking?

CAPUTO: Pass blocking for me I think because I came from a high school that ran every play. So I got used to run blocking. It was a big change for me when I first got here. But I've gotten better at it. It's just different.

Hi: What do you have on your iPod?

CAPUTO: I actually don't use my iPod. I got one for Christmas one year. I have some songs on it, but I'm not big into technology. That's kind of what goes wrong for me with video games. I'm just not very good at it.

Hi: What's the best movie you've seen lately?

CAPUTO: I watch a lot of movies. I should know this one. I'd say Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay. You should see that one.

Hi: Do you have a game-day routine?

CAPUTO: Not really. I have a couple of things I always do. I always listen to a message from my dad. I've always gotten a message from my dad since high school. It's just kind of personal stuff, to get my mind right.

Hi: If you could play another position except center, what would it be?

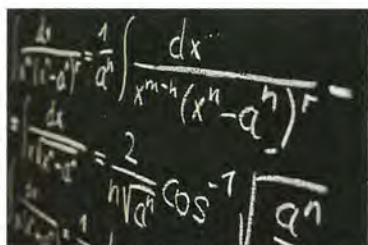
CAPUTO: I don't know if I could play another position. If I could, it would probably be like nose guard. I played that in high school, so maybe I could do that. Maybe fullback, carrying the ball. But I was always a center.

Hi: What was your favorite NFL team growing up?

CAPUTO: The Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers. I think I liked the mascots. That's what it came down to for me.

Hi: What's the toughest class you've taken at the university?

CAPUTO: I thought math 100-101 was probably my toughest class. I'm not very good in math. So I'd say math. I dropped statistics this year after like one class (meeting). That seemed challenging right at the start.



Butch Hug

First one in, last one out.

Yes, he works a lot of hours and lots of weekends.

However, "I really enjoy my job," said Butch Hug, Nebraska assistant athletic director for events. "To me, it's the best job in athletics. I really enjoy putting on events, and there's always something different."

Hug, 64, joined the Nebraska staff in 1982 and has served in his current role since 2001. He oversees staffing and staging of Husker athletic events, as well as non-athletic events held in NU athletic department facilities.

"I've always been interested in athletics, but I was never much of an athlete," Hug said. "So this was a way to stay involved in athletics."

Hug oversees a full-time staff that handles all events in Memorial Stadium, the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the NU Coliseum and Haymarket Park. The events include high school state championships. All told,

Hug oversees the scheduling of more than 800 event staffers for approximately 280 events per year.

He first became involved in event management as a student at Midland College in Fremont in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He also played outfielder on the baseball team for one year and served as the equipment manager for the football team.

A native of Auburn, Neb., Hug attended Auburn High, working as the student manager for the Auburn football team.

"My high school football coach, Max Kitzelman, went up there (to Midland) and I followed him," Hug said.

Hug's also a Hall of Fame member of the Husker Track Officials Association and a master-level official. His roots as a track official can be traced to the late 1960s, when Midland played host to several track and



field meets in large part because many of the high schools in the area didn't have tracks. He recalls helping put on prep meets on Thursdays and Fridays and college meets on Saturdays.

"With so many high schools involved, and so many races, we would run the hurdles on one side of the track and the 100 on the other," he recalled.

The foremost challenges in staging a Husker football game are fan behavior and safety and security, Hug said.

Game-day hours are long – extremely long, actually. For the Oct. 4 Missouri game, for instance, Hug's parking staff reported for work at 6 a.m. for a game that began at 8 p.m.

"I worked 14 hours before kickoff," Hug said. "And it was a little after 3 a.m. before I went home."

Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

Erik Wiegert

No practice? No problem.

Some weeks during his senior season, Erik Wiegert practiced twice, some weeks only once because of physical ailments. He underwent knee surgery before his senior season. He dealt with a compressed disk in his back, had since he was a sophomore. And he endured the constant pain of athletic pubalgia from his junior season on. No one quite understood that problem among football players at the time.

Even so, Wiegert, a co-captain, never missed a snap as a senior. And he earned first-team all-conference recognition as an offensive guard. He started the first three games at left tackle then moved to left guard, where he started the rest.

Switching positions was nothing new for him. He started at least twice at every interior line position except center during his

Cornhusker career. Some games he played both guards and a tackle, rotating each series.

"I moved around a lot," said Wiegert. "Coach (Milt) Tenopir, he could plug me in pretty much where he needed me. I was glad to do it."

Despite the injuries and time missed those first two seasons, "I never had a time where I was discouraged or wanted to quit." It was disappointing, however.

"Every once in a while I think, gosh, I wonder, especially with a brother who won the Outland Trophy, where I could have gone," he said with a laugh.

ERIK WIEGERT

LETTERS: 1989-91

POSITION: Offensive Line

CURRENT: Vice president

Transportation Specialists, Ltd., Omaha

WIFE: Terese

CHILDREN: Lauren (8), Cassidy (7)

His younger brother Zach was the Outland Trophy winner in 1994.



Plenty to choose from

BY RICK SHAW

It didn't take long for Nebraska to solidify its first cornerback pledge for their recruiting class of 2009. Tallahassee (Fla.) Lincoln athlete **DEANDRE BYRD** chose the Huskers over several other suitors clear back in mid-summer. However, the 'Big Red' is still looking to snag the services of at least one more corner before signing day in February. By the way things are shaking out on the recruiting trail, that shouldn't be much of a problem.

Byrd, rated the No. 48 cornerback prospect in the country by Rivals.com, chose Nebraska over a host of other offers, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan State, Ole Miss, South Carolina, South Florida and Wisconsin. The speedy (4.4-second 40-yard dash) athlete made life difficult for the opposition in 2007, nabbing four interceptions, nine pass breakups and over 40 tackles.

Another corner with gaudy numbers giving a long, hard look at Nebraska is **GABE LYNN** (6-0, 185-pounds) of Jenks, Oklahoma. Lynn, the younger brother of Husker starting linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD**, has already traveled to Lincoln twice this fall, once for an official visit in mid-September. He said he's impressed with the strides that head coach **BO PELINI** and staff have made during their short tenure with the program.

"My family and I got a chance to sit down and talk quite a bit with coach (**MARVIN SANDERS**) and coach Pelini," Lynn said. "They spent a lot of time talking about the University of Nebraska and how they thought it would fit me. They said they thought I would fit in really good with the other players as they are not only great athletes but they're great people as well. They also talked about how they thought Nebraska football was on the rise and that they needed some great

players like myself to help them get there."

"Nebraska has always been a player in the race for my commitment. The visit didn't do anything to change that."

Rated the No. 4 cornerback prospect (four-stars) in the country and the No. 37 player overall by Rivals, Lynn has accumulated scholarship offers from over 40 Division I schools, including Arkansas, Florida, Miami, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, USC and Texas. The standout, who tallied 52 tackles and five interceptions on the way to second-team all-state honors as a junior, said he hopes to nail down a college choice before the end of the season.

ANTHONY CARPENTER, a fleet-footed (4.4-second 40-yard dash) cornerback out of Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra holds scholarship offers from Oregon State, Nebraska and Washington State. However, after a Oct. 3 visit to Lincoln, the West Coast standout admitted that Nebraska will be tough to beat.

"NEBRASKA

has always been a player in the race for my commitment. The visit didn't do anything to change that."

CORNERBACK RECRUIT
GABE LYNN



"Meeting coach (Bo) Pelini and coach Sanders was amazing," Carpenter said. "I like coach Pelini's defense and coach Sanders is a really good coach - I'd play for him any day. They really make it a family type atmosphere so the players can go to the coaches for everything."

"I have another trip to Washington State in November. After that I'll further evaluate but Nebraska is very high on my list."

Rated the No. 56 cornerback prospect in the country and No. 75 overall prospect in the state (three-stars) by Rivals, Carpenter had a breakout season as a junior in 2007. The 6-1, 180-pounder racked up 74 tackles and one interception on his way to first-team all-league honors.

Nebraska has already pulled a number of talented prospects out of the state of Texas in this recruiting cycle and hope to do so, yet

again, with athlete **ANDREW GREEN**. Rated the No. 35 cornerback prospect in the country (three stars) by Rivals, the 6-0, 180-pounder visited Lincoln in early September and came away with the Huskers in the lead.

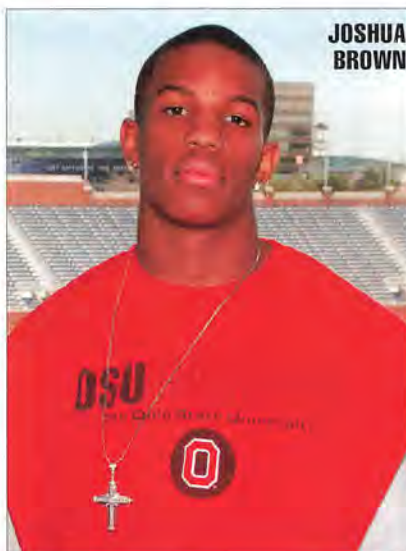
"The atmosphere at the game was awesome, and the players were great," Green said. "They're all laid back guys, and they're strong believers in God. We really connected. They were real cool."

Regarded as the nation's No. 3 "Most Physical Cornerback" prospect by Rivals, Green is also considering scholarship tenders from Baylor, Colorado, Houston, Iowa State, Kansas, Missouri and Purdue. He was named second-team all-district as a junior, after logging 70 tackles, five interceptions and eight pass breakups.

Green's next scheduled visit is to Iowa State on Oct. 24. He's indicated that he likely won't make a final college selection until sometime this winter.

Another Texas recruit, 6-0, 173-pounder **JOSHUA BROWN** of Lancaster, also has Nebraska on his current shortlist. Though he boasts scholarship offers from North Carolina, Utah and Wake Forest, he said the Huskers are in the lead for his college commitment.

"Right now I like Nebraska, Utah and North Carolina," Brown said. "They've all offered me along with Wake Forest and a couple of



JOSHUA BROWN

others. Those top three are all kind of equal but Nebraska's still got the edge. If today was signing day, I'd sign with Nebraska."

"I like Nebraska's program and tradition. I enjoyed it when I was up there for their camp this past summer. I get personalized notes from coach (Tim) Beck and the rest of the coaches everyday. I like the way they treat me."

Rated the No. 38 cornerback prospect in the country by Rivals, Brown logged 70 tackles, four interceptions, three-forced fumbles, two pass deflections and two sacks as a junior. His teammate, outside linebacker Cordarius Golston, also holds an offer from the 'Big Red' and hopes to visit Lincoln sometime during the second half of the season.

A third Texan, 5-11, 175-pounder **DESMOND GARDINER** out of Port Arthur Memorial is also contemplating an NU visit. The three-star standout, with scholarship offers in the double-digits, said he's built a good relationship with the Husker coaching staff.

"Nebraska - that's a pretty good school," Gardiner said. "I talk every now and then with coach (Mike) Ekeler. They want me as a cornerback. He said they really like the speed and aggression I bring to the position."

With one cornerback already in the fold, the Huskers hope to land another prospect or two at the position before Signing Day. One thing is for sure, there is no shortage of options. **N**



ANTHONY CARPENTER

COMMITTED



RECORDS NOT CHAMPIONSHIPS

It's a big season for Galena Park (Texas) North Shore defensive tackle Thaddeus Randle.

Randle made his college decision back in May, giving a verbal commitment to the University of Nebraska.

Before Hurricane Ike made its way into Texas, Randle and his North Shore teammates were looking forward to breaking the state record of current consecutive regular season victories of 72. Though delayed they got the job done, finally, notching No. 73 against Lufkin. That breaks a record that Texas power Southlake Carroll previously held.

Randle says the record, while nice, isn't their main focus. It's winning a state championship.

"That's awesome," Randle said about the record and having the opportunity to rewrite history. "I think that's real good, but we're just really focused on state. My goal is state. I know that's my team's goal too."

With several games cancelled since the weather put a halt on the high school season down in Houston, Randle had an opportunity to finally see Lincoln on an official visit for Nebraska's game against Virginia Tech.

His commitment, if possible, is even stronger than before after his trip.

"The fans - they love college football," he said. "People come from everywhere just to watch the game. It shows me that they're committed to their team no matter if they lose or win and that they'll always have love for the team."

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher
HuskiersIllustrated.com

Huskers impress visitors

by Sean Stevens

Abilene, Texas linebacker **CHRIS WILLIAMS** (6-3/230/4-stars) was impressed with Nebraska's facilities during his visit for the Missouri game, but it was the people that really stood out.

"Everybody is going to have good facilities and the best things, but Nebraska – you can't buy the fans," he said. "They're so dedicated. That means a lot to someone who plays defense and has to have the fans behind them."

Williams was excited about the future of the NU program.

"(Coach Bo Pelini) pretty much told me his future for this team," Williams said. "He's coming in and teaching a top notch defense. It's a matter of time before he turns it around. Coach (Mike) Ekeler, I mean, he doesn't want to change anything about me. He wants to take the black jersey off and put a red one on. He loves the way I play the game. I like the way he coaches the game and with me and him together ... there is no telling what could happen."

While the visit helped Nebraska's chances, Williams plans to visit LSU and Missouri before making a decision.

"I mean it's put [Nebraska] up there at the top of my list with the other schools, but I'd cheat myself out a lot if I didn't take a visit to other schools to see what they have to offer," he said.



SIDELINES

RELATIONSHIPS

Defensive tackle **LATU HEIMULI** (6-3/296/4-stars) of Salt Lake City, Utah also enjoyed his trip.

"I was really impressed with the coaching staff," Heimuli said. "The just told me it was important my decision was based on my relationship with the coaching staff and to try to build that before committing anywhere. That and just the atmosphere in the stadium before kickoff was unreal."

"I'd probably put it up there as a nine or a 10," he continued. "I really, really enjoyed it. (Nebraska) is pretty high – in my top three."

Home-state BYU and either Oregon State or Arizona round out Heimuli's top three.

GREAT VISIT

Lakewood, Colo. offensive lineman **JEREMIAH SIRLES** (6-6/280/3-stars) had visited Lincoln unofficially, but had never been on an official trip.

"The visit was awesome," Sirles said. "The atmosphere at the beginning of the game was awesome. It was so loud I couldn't believe it. When we came out of the tunnel people were shouting my name, 'Hey Jeremiah, come here, we want you to play for Nebraska.' It was incredible."

"I talked to coach Pelini for an hour and a half," Sirles said. "He said he is trying to get the Nebraska atmosphere and tradition back, and the game shows that they're coming back. I believe they definitely will win again. He feels this class will be a real good one and be key to putting Nebraska back on the map in the next couple of years."

Sirles has also visited Arizona State and will visit Oregon Oct. 10 before making a decision.

2009 Nebraska Commitment List

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Euless, Texas (Trinity)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)

**NDAMUKONG SUH DROPS
TEXAS TECH'S BARON BATCH.**



**NEBRASKA 31
TEXAS TECH 37 OT**

Down to the final play

In a back-and-forth contest that featured numerous potential turning points, it would be easy to surmise that Nebraska's 37-31 overtime loss at Texas Tech boiled down to the final play.

Driving for a tying touchdown and the upset victory that would've come

with it – assuming a successful point-after-kick – Cornhuskers' quarterback Joe Ganz was flushed from the pocket on a second-and-10 play from the Red Raiders' 25-yard line. As he neared the sideline, the fifth-year senior was merely looking to throw the pass away and live to fight another down.

Instead, Texas Tech defensive end McKinner Dixon caught Ganz from behind, twisting the Nebraska signal-caller just as he was about to launch a pass out of bounds. Dixon knocked Ganz off-balance and his pass floated into the arms of Red Raiders' defensive back Jamar Wall for a game-ending interception.

"It went right to the kid," Ganz said. "It's just a sick feeling to end it like that after we played so hard and played so well."

While it's easy to identify the Ganz interception as the game's key play, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini staunchly disagreed.

"I told Joe this and I told the football team this: That play did not lose us the football game," Pelini said. "There were a lot of plays out there for us to win the game. We would not have been in that situation without Joe Ganz.

"That single play does not lose the



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

NU's bid for its first road win in 11 years against a top 10 opponent fell short with a late turnover.

football game – it never does."

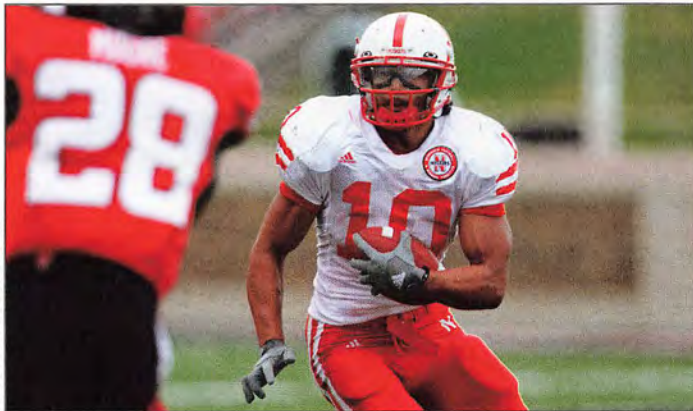
As his teammates later noted, it was Ganz who guided Nebraska on an eight-play, 79-yard drive in the two-minute offense to tie the score at 31-31 on his 17-yard TD pass to Todd Peterson with 29 seconds left in regulation.

"You kind of go from the highest of high

in that two-minute drill and then you see that kid run out of bounds with the ball and you're at the lowest of lows," said Ganz, who completed a career-high 36 passes on 44 attempts and threw for 349 yards and two TDs. "That took a toll on me emotionally. It's tough." **N**

— by Terry Douglass

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN



Roy Helu Jr., rushed for 47 yards on 10 carries and caught two passes for 15 yards.



Todd Peterson's touchdown with 29 seconds remaining helped send the game into overtime. Peterson had eight catches for 77 yards.



Bo Pelini regroups during the first half.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

B

Nebraska didn't exactly dominate on the ground, rushing for 114 yards and averaging 3.3 yards per carry. Still, the Huskers were still able to use the running game as a fairly effective change of pace in their ball-control approach.

PASSING:

A

While quarterback Joe Ganz's overtime interception ultimately decided the game, Nebraska wouldn't have stood a chance without its patient and productive aerial attack. The late fourth-quarter execution in the two-minute offense for the tying scoring drive was impressive.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

C

Texas Tech's 137 yards rushing and average of 6 yards per carry was actually an improvement over the Missouri game for Nebraska, but the Huskers still had a difficult time slowing the ground attack of another spread offense.

PASSING DEFENSE:

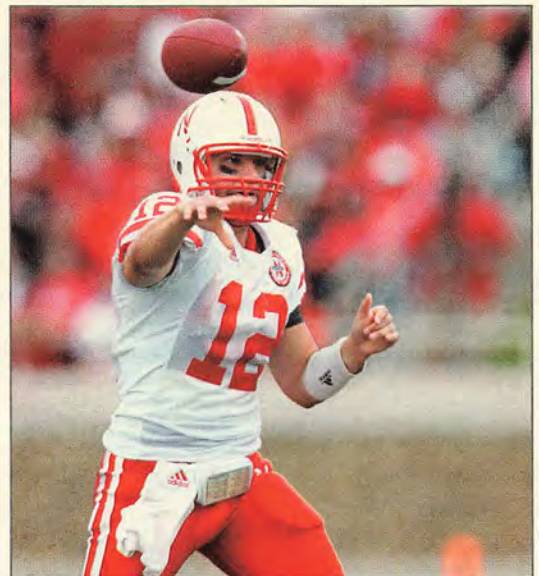
C

It can be argued that Nebraska's keep-away approach on offense aided this grade, holding the nation's No. 1 passing offense 155 yards below its average in an overtime contest is noteworthy. However, some key coverage breakdowns hurt.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

A

Nebraska had a nicely executed fake field-goal as holder Jake Wesch's 8-yard pass to Mike McNeill missed a TD by inches. Niles Paul's 69-yard kickoff return and Wesch's 55-yard punt in his first start aided the cause.



Joe Ganz completed 36-of-44 passes for 349 yards and two TDs

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



GO FOR TWO TO WIN?

Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** considered going for a 2-point conversion and the victory after **JOE GANZ** and **TODD PETERSON** teamed up on a 17-yard touchdown pass with 29 seconds remaining to cap an eight-play, 79-yard drive with no timeouts. But "I liked the way our offense was playing," Pelini said. "I thought that had they (Red Raiders) scored in overtime we would score. I felt pretty good about some of the things we were doing in the red zone defensively, and I thought we could stop them."

OVERTIME

Texas Tech's first play in overtime was a screen pass to tailback Baron Batch, who gained 24 yards to the Nebraska 1-yard line. "We had the right call (defensively) on the screen, and we let the back get away from us," Pelini said.

Nebraska had played five overtime games previously, all victories: Missouri, 1997; Colorado, 1999; Notre Dame, 2000; Iowa

State (2 OT), 2005; and Kansas, 2006.

TO CHALLENGE OR NOT

Nebraska missed an opportunity to tie the score or take the lead late in the first half when **QUENTIN CASTILLE** was stopped on a fourth-and-1 at the Texas Tech 30-yard line. Coach **BO PELINI** considered challenging the spot, but "it's hard to challenge a spot like that in a pile of bodies. That's been my sense," he said. "Maybe I should have. I thought about it. But when you're talking about inches, most of the time, they're not going to over-rule it."

UNEXPECTED RESULT

The key play on Texas Tech's final touchdown drive in regulation was a 47-yard pass from Graham Harrell to Michael Crabtree on fourth-and-5 from the Red Raiders' 36-yard line. "Give him a lot of credit. It was a gutsy call," Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** said, referring to Texas Tech coach

Mike Leach.

Actually, the Red Raiders snapped the ball on the play because it appeared a Cornhusker defender had jumped offsides. "I was thinking he was," said Leach. "There were a lot of things that didn't turn our way this game, but in the end it did."

REALITY CHECK

The *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* included a "Tale of the Tape" in the sports section of its Saturday morning edition, comparing Nebraska and Texas Tech in eight categories. The Red Raiders earned check marks in seven categories. Oops.

Nebraska's only check mark was for special teams. That was justified, certainly, but the Cornhuskers deserved more check marks after the fact.

The newspaper also noted that the Cornhuskers' running game, "once a weapon to be feared, has all but disappeared lately." Also, oops. Even though Nebraska averaged



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

BANGED UP

Cornhusker linebackers **CODY GLENN** and **PHILLIP DILLARD** were among those who didn't play because of injuries. Glenn didn't suit up but was on the sideline. "There are no excuses," coach **BO PELINI** said. "We had enough good football players in the game to win. We didn't play well enough."

True freshman **MATT HOLT** (pictured), a walk-on, got his first start at linebacker.

only 3.3 yards per rush, its running game helped keep the Texas Tech defense on the field as well as off-balance. "I thought we ran the ball well," said coach **BO PELINI**.

"I thought 'Wats' (offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON**) called an outstanding game. He kept them off-balance with a lot of different things."

EXPECT THE BEST

The Red Raiders didn't take Nebraska lightly, according to safety Darrel McBath, who told the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* prior to the game: "We know they're a great team. They're trying to find their self. This could be the week that they put it together, so we're (preparing) like they're 5-0." McBath was right.

"I'm proud of these guys," Cornhusker quarterback **JOE GANZ** said. "They played hard. They fought well. But there are no moral victories. We lost the game."

"We didn't play well enough to win."

PENALTIES

Nebraska went into the game as the next-to-most-penalized team in the conference and

the fifth-most penalized team in the country. Texas Tech went in as the nation's second-most penalized team. The Red Raiders were penalized only twice, however, while Nebraska was penalized eight times for 55 yards. "It's a problem," said coach **BO PELINI**. "We talk about it. We stress it. We have to get it fixed."

The Cornhuskers missed an opportunity to respond to Texas Tech's second touchdown in the final 1:18 of the first half, following a 69-yard kickoff return by **NILES PAUL** to the Texas Tech 31-yard line. A pair of holding penalties (by tackle **MIKE SMITH**) left Nebraska with a fourth-and-15 at the 36-yard line. **ALEX HENERY** attempted a 53-yard field goal, into the wind, as time elapsed. The kick was short.

YOUNG TRAVELERS

Nebraska's 70-player travel roster included 36 sophomores and freshmen, four of them true freshmen: cornerback **ALFONSO DENNARD**, linebacker **MATT HOLT**, defensive end **CAMERON MEREDITH** and safety **MASON WALD**. Senior defensive end **BARRY TURNER** also made the trip, despite being sidelined for the season by a broken leg.

QUICKLY

MUTUAL RESPECT

Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** on No. 7-ranked Texas Tech: "That football team we just played is a talented, well-coached team. We had a lot of respect for them."

Texas Tech coach Mike Leach on the Cornhuskers: "Nebraska did a great job coaching, I thought and I thought their team came in really inspired. And I'll tell you, I thought their o-line did a great job – just like Nebraska o-line of old, I thought."

"Sometimes you just gotta keep fighting and swing longer than the other guy and I felt like we did and they're a great team."

TRAVELING TEXANS

Nebraska's recruiting emphasis in Texas was reflected on the travel roster, which included seven from the Lone Star State: I-backs **QUENTIN CASTILLE** (La Porte) and **MARCUS MENDOZA** (Houston), wide receivers **CURENSKI GILLEYLEN** (Leander) and **WILL HENRY** (El Paso), linebacker **CODY GLENN** (Rusk), place-kicker **ADI KUNALIC** (Fort Worth) and quarterback **PATRICK WITT** (Wylie).

CAPTAINS

This week's Cornhusker captains were: defensive ends **PIERRE ALLEN** and **CLAYTON SIEVERS**, offensive guard **MIKE HUFF** and punter-holder (and passer) **JAKE WESCH** – the senior from North Bend, Neb., handled the punting for the first time this season. His only punt went for 55 yards. He also completed a pass on a fake field goal to tight end **DREU YOUNG** on a fourth-and-7 at the Texas Tech 8-yard line to set up Nebraska's second touchdown.

Wesch threw a touchdown pass on a fake field goal to tight end **HUNTER TEAFATILLER** against Kansas State in 2006.

SUMMARY

SCORING

Oct. 11, 2008
Jones AT&T Stadium • Lubbock, Texas
Attendance: 53,449

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Tot
Nebraska	0	7	3	21	0	31
Texas Tech	7	10	7	7	6	27

	NU	TT
First Quarter		
TT Crabtree Pass from Harrell 35-yards (Carona Kick) 04:49 Drive: 7 plays 80 yds 3:18	0	7

Second Quarter		
NU Castille 4-yard Run (Henery Kick) 11:46 Drive: 15 plays 74 yds 8:03	7	7

TT Carona 26-yard Field Goal 08:13 Drive: 6 plays 59 yds 3:33	7	10
---	---	----

TT Woods 4-yard Run (Carona Kick) 01:18 Drive: 4 plays 70 yds 1:19	7	17
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NU Henery 21-yard Field Goal 08:00 Drive: 14 plays 75 yds 7:00	10	17
--	----	----

TT Crabtree Pass from Harrell 4-yards (Carona Kick) 04:47 Drive: 7 plays 77 yds 3:13	10	24
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Fourth Quarter		
NU Ganz 1-yard Run (Henery Kick) 12:10 Drive: 13 plays 73 yds 7:37	17	24

NU Young Pass from Ganz 2-yards (Henery Kick) 06:06 Drive: 8 plays 68 yds 4:04	24	24
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TT Harrell 1-yard Run (Carona Kick) 02:21 Drive: 10 plays 80 yds 3:45	24	31
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NU Peterson Pass from Ganz 17-yards (Henery Kick) 00:29 Drive: 8 plays 79 yds 1:52	31	31
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Overtime		
TT Morris 1-yard Run (Carona Kick Failed) 15:00 Drive: 4 plays 25 yds 0:00	31	37

TEAM STATS

	NU	TT
Total First Downs.....	29	16
Rushing.....	11	6
Passing.....	17	9
Penalty.....	1	1
Rushing Attempts.....	35	23
Yards Gained Rushing.....	126	138
Yards Lost Rushing.....	12	1
Net Yards Rushing.....	114	137
Net Yards Passing.....	357	284
Passes Attempted.....	45	25
Passes Completed.....	37	20
Had Intercepted.....	1	0
Percent Completion.....	82.2%	80.0%
Yards per Attempt.....	7.9	11.4
Yards per Completion.....	9.6	14.2
Total Offensive Plays.....	80	48
Total Net Yards.....	471	421
Avg. Gain Per Play.....	5.9	8.8
Fumbles: No-Lost.....	0-0	0-0
Penalties: No-Yards.....	8-55	2-20
Punts: No-Yards.....	1-55	2-83
Avg. Per Punt.....	55.0	41.5
Avg. Net Punt.....	55.0	38.5
Punt Returns: No-Yards.....	1-6	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards.....	5-156	3-50
Interception Returns: No-Yards.....	0-0	1-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards.....	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards.....	0	0
Possession Time.....	40:12	19:48
Third-Down Conversions.....	7-12	4-8
Percentage.....	58.3%	50.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions.....	1-2	1-1
Percentage.....	50.0%	100.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards.....	0-0	2-7

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	16	66	0	66	4.1	0	10
Helu Jr.	10	47	0	47	4.7	0	10
Castille	3	6	0	6	2.0	1	4
Ganz	6	7	12	-5	-0.8	1	4
Total	35	126	12	114	3.3	2	10

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	44	36	81.8	1	349	2	43
Wesch	1	1	100.0	0	8	0	8
Total	45	37	82.2	1	357	2	43

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Lucky	7	80	0	26
Peterson	8	77	1	17
Swift	5	70	0	43
Holt	6	55	0	16
Paul	4	25	0	9
McNeill	3	24	0	9
Helu Jr.	2	15	0	13
Young	2	11	1	9
Total	37	357	2	43

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Swift	1	6	0	6

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	5	156	0	69

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Wesch	1	55.0	55	0	1	0	1	0

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	2	21	0

Defense	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Asante	8	1	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Holt	7	1	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	4	1	5	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Thorell	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Barfield	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Murillo	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Paul	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
West	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

TEXAS TECH

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Batch	10	97	0	97	9.7	0	49
Woods	10	37	1	36	3.6	1	10
Britton	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Harrell	1	1	0	1	1.0	1	1
Morris	1	1	0	1	1.0	1	1
Total	23	138	1	137	6.0	3	49

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Harrell	25	20	80.0	0	284	2	56

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Crabtree	5	89	2	47
Britton	2	67	0	56
Batch	3	53	0	27
Lewis	4	47	0	31
Morris	2	16	0	12
Swindall	1	6	0	6
Leong	1	5	0	5
Woods	2	1	0	1
Total	20	284	2	56

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Moore	2	35	0	21
Hale	1	15	0	15
Total	3	50	0	21

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
LaCour	2	41.5	43	0	0	0	0	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Carona	1	1	26	0

Defense	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Charbonnet	9	0	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McBath	6	2	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wall	7	0	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Duncan	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bird	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Nickerson	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Rowland	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Dewhurst	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dixon	2	0	2	2-7	1-2	0	0	0
Hines	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hunter	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mitchem	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Sesay	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Whitlock	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Franks	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fuller	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Howard	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	1	0	1	1-5	1-5	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Wall	1	0	0	0

NEBRASKA SEASON LEADERS

Rushing	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	6	72	320	22	298	4.1	4	58	49.7
Helu Jr., Roy	6	42	230	8	222	5.3	2	27	37.0
Castille, Quentin	6	40	136	9	127	3.2	2	17	21.2
Ganz, Joe	6	34	176	65	111	3.3	2	33	18.5
Mendoza, Marcus	2	5	47	2	45	9.0	0	35	22.5
Total	6	200	931	116	815	4.1	10	58	135.8
Opponent	6	201	897	120	777	3.9	12	49	129.5

Passing	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Ganz, Joe	6	186	129	69.4	6	1636	11	61	272.7
Total	6	196	136	69.4	6	1709	12	61	284.8
Opponent	6	187	118	63.1	5	1525	7	58	254.2

Receiving	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Swift, Nate	6	25	374	15.0	3	61	62.3
Peterson, Todd	6	30	345	11.5	2	25	57.5
Holt, Menelik	6	19	225	11.8	1	25	37.5
McNeill, Mike	6	11	187	17.0	3	35	31.2
Lucky, Marlon	6	15	174	11.6	1	29	29.0
Helu Jr., Roy	6	9	110	12.2	0	27	18.3
Young, Dreu	6	5	86	17.2	1	55	14.3
Paul, Niles	6	8	83	10.4	0	21	13.8
Total	6	136	1709	12.6	12	61	284.8
Opponent	6	118	1525	12.9	7	58	254.2

Defense	Tot	TFL	Sack
Glenn, Cody	35	3-14	0-0
Dillard, Phillip	32	0-6	0-6
Suh, Ndamukong	31	5-19	2-15
Asante, Larry	30	0-0	0-0
Steinkuhler, Ty	30	0-3	0-1
Allen, Pierre	29	3-11	1-2
O'Hanlon, Matt	28	1-2	0-0
Hagg, Eric	24	1-5	0-0
Murillo, Armando	24	1-1	0-0
Potter, Zach	21	3-18	1-15
Amukamara, Prince	20	0-0	0-0
Thorell, Lance	19	0-0	0-0



2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	W, 35-12
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-7
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	L, 30-35
Sat., Oct. 4	#4/3 Missouri	Memorial Stadium	L, 17-52
Sat., Oct. 11	#7 Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	L, 31-37 (OT)
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	11:30 a.m.
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium)	7 p.m. (ABC)

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. **IOWA STATE**



OCTOBER 18, 2008
HUSKERS TRAVEL TO CYCLONE TERRITORY FOR THIS
EPIC BATTLE OF THE WALKING WOUNDED!

FAN OF THE GAME



Nancy Slauon of Lincoln cheers on her son Matt, a senior offensive lineman for the Huskers.

THIS WEEK'S PICKS



AARON BABCOCK, Editor

Last Week: (3-2) Season: (21-8)

Nebraska at Iowa State	NU 31-21
Kansas at Oklahoma	OU 44-28
Missouri at Texas	UT 44-38
Kansas State at Colorado	KSU 35-24
Texas Tech at Texas A&M	TT 52-17



MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor

Last Week: (3-2) Season: (23-6)

Nebraska at Iowa State	NU 42-17
Kansas at Oklahoma	OU 38-28
Missouri at Texas	UT 45-42
Kansas State at Colorado	CU 21-20
Texas Tech at Texas A&M	TT 49-10



TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent

Last Week: (2-3) Season: (22-7)

Nebraska at Iowa State	NU 27-24
Kansas at Oklahoma	OU 45-17
Missouri at Texas	MU 40-37
Kansas State at Colorado	CU 33-24
Texas Tech at Texas A&M	TT 55-13



MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (24-5)

Nebraska at Iowa State	NU 34-24
Kansas at Oklahoma	OU 42-17
Missouri at Texas	MU 41-38
Kansas State at Colorado	CU 31-24
Texas Tech at Texas A&M	TT 48-13



SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com

Last Week: (2-3) Season: (19-5)

Nebraska at Iowa State	NU 31-26
Kansas at Oklahoma	OU 44-30
Missouri at Texas	MU 41-38
Kansas State at Colorado	CU 37-17
Texas Tech at Texas A&M	TT 51-21

Cyclones improving, waiting for consistency

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

His team has plenty of inexperience on its roster.

Heck, Gene Chizik is inexperienced as a head coach, with only one full season under his belt.

Iowa State, however, appears to be making progress under Chizik. The team's biggest challenge, he said, is playing with consistency.

"That's really what we, as the weeks go on, try to stress to our football team," Chizik said. "We have flashes of really looking like a good football team. I'm really proud of our kids, with their effort and really wanting to be good. I really believe they want to be good. They really practice hard. They make efforts to make strides. Whatever they weren't good at previously, they try to improve the next week.

"I think we've improved. But we haven't put together four quarters of football yet."

Had it played consistently Oct. 4, Iowa State would have enjoyed its biggest win under Chizik. Instead, the Cyclones dropped a 35-33 decision to 16th-ranked Kansas at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames, Iowa. The Cyclones led 20-0 at halftime, but struggled on both sides of the ball while being outscored 21-0 in the third quarter.

Iowa State fell to 2-3 with its third straight loss. The Cyclones played at Baylor on Oct. 11.

"In this league, against teams like Kansas, you have to be able to play a full game to win," Chizik said. "That's what we have not been able to do at this point in time. But they're young kids, and they're learning, and they're eager, and that's why



it's really fun to be around these guys. Because they really want to be so good. I'm really proud of them for that. But we have to put together a game for four quarters. I think if we do that, we have a chance to be a good football team."

Iowa State opened this season with wins against South Dakota State (44-17) and Kent State (48-28). The Cyclones then lost to Iowa (17-5) and UNLV (34-31 in overtime) before the Kansas defeat.

Iowa State and Iowa were tied 3-3 early in the fourth quarter. The Cyclones held the ball for 11:24 in the third quarter but could manage only three points.

Against UNLV, Iowa State rallied from a 21-point halftime deficit.

Is Chizik concerned about his young team continually having to bounce back from close losses?

"Eventually, it's going to become a downer," he said. "Eventually, it's going to become something you really have to overcome. But the youth of our team, and the resiliency of our guys -- we have great character on this team -- they all want to win and are very adamant about it. I think the character and the

mark of a man really comes out when you struggle."

However, "We have to find a way to win those (close games). We have to find a way to come back in overtime and come out with a win. We have to find a way to be up 21-0 and win the game. It's not wearing on us right now, but at some point in time we're going to have to be able to deliver and win one of those."

Iowa State is getting strong play from one of its key inexperienced players -- sophomore quarterback Austen Arnaud. Through five games, he had completed 81-of-128 passes (63.3 percent) for 911 yards and seven touchdowns, with three interceptions. He also had rushed 42 times for 134 yards and four scores.

"He's a young player who I think is starting to play a little bit better," Chizik said. "Game by game, I think you're seeing that. I think he's playing confidently, which only comes with experience. He's doing some good things, but he has some things we really need him to get better at."

For instance, Arnaud -- an Ames, Iowa, native -- committed two turnovers against Kansas.



IOWA STATE QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Gene Chizik (second season as head coach at Iowa State, second season overall)

Enrollment: 23,710

Colors: Cardinal and Gold

Conference: Big 12

2007 record: 3-9 (2-6 Big 12)

Starters returning/lost: 15/9

Series record: NU leads 84-16-2

2008 SCHEDULE

8/28	S. DAKOTA ST, W, 44-17
9/6	KENT STATE, W, 48-28
9/13	at Iowa, L, 17-5
9/20	at UNLV, L, 34-21 OT
10/4	KANSAS, L, 35-33
10/11	at Baylor
10/18	NEBRASKA
10/25	TEXAS A&M
11/1	at Oklahoma State
11/8	at Colorado
11/15	MISSOURI
11/22	at Kansas State

"He's still making 'young guy' mistakes," Chizik said. "He sees it and he knows it. But he's able to move our offense. But we have to eliminate some of the turnovers."

"What people don't know on the outside is what a phenomenal young man he is for the community and what he does for the Boys and Girls Clubs and all the volunteer hours he puts in," Chizik added. "He really tries to be a mentor for all the kids around here. He's a special young man, and it's really neat to have him here." **N**

IOWA STATE ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
4	Austen Arnaud*	QB	6-3	222	So.#
7	Phillip Bates*	QB	6-1	218	So.
8	Brett Bueker	QB	6-4	197	Fr.
11	Jerome Tiller	QB	6-4	179	Fr.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
51	Scott Haughton	OL	6-4	335	Fr.
52	Mike Knapp	OL	6-3	272	Jr.#
53	Evan Vencil	OL	6-3	243	Sr.#
58	Hayworth Hicks	OL	6-3	330	So.
60	Brandon Johnson*	OL	6-4	322	Sr.#
61	Nick Slobidsky*	OL	6-2	290	Sr.
63	Ben Lamaak*	OL	6-5	315	So.#
65	Patrick Steinbach	OL	6-8	299	So.#
67	Matt Hulbert*	OL	6-7	286	So.#
70	Drew Davis	OL	6-9	330	Fr.
71	Trey Baysinger	OL	6-6	315	Fr.#
72	Kelechi Osemele	OL	6-5	330	Fr.#
73	Reggie Stephens**	OL	6-4	313	Jr.#
74	Joe Vanstrom*	OL	6-6	301	Sr.#
75	Doug Dedrick*	OL	6-4	301	Sr.
77	Alex Alvarez	OL	6-2	291	So.#
78	Joseph Klerekoper	OL	6-5	278	Fr.#
79	Brayden Burris	OL	6-6	263	Fr.
49	David Wonders	DS	6-0	253	So.#
46	Dakota Zimmerman	DS/K	6-2	223	Fr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
26	Taylor Mansfield	FB	6-1	255	So.#
35	Vince Ewald	FB	6-6	220	Fr.
29	Brian Ekwelundu*	FB/TE	5-11	232	Jr.#
3	Jamich "JJ" Bass*	RB	6-0	200	Sr.
6	Jason Scales***	RB	5-9	212	Sr.#
22	Jason Harris**	RB	5-11	212	Sr.
23	Jeremiah Schwartz	RB	5-11	230	Fr.
33	Alexander Robinson*	RB	5-10	182	So.#
34	Bo Williams	RB	6-1	213	Fr.#
39	Rickey Thompson Jr.	RB	5-9	204	Sr.#

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
45	Joe Blaes	TE	6-2	287	Sr.
48	Sean Smith	TE	6-4	274	So.#
84	Derrick Catlett*	TE	6-4	241	Jr.#
86	Kurt Hammerschmidt	TE	6-6	237	Fr.
88	Collin Franklin	TE	6-6	247	So.#
91	Patrick Neal	TE	6-0	224	Fr.#
93	Carter Bykowski	TE	6-8	254	Fr.
2	Sedrick Johnson	WR	6-4	188	Fr.
5	R.J. Sumrall***	WR	6-1	202	Sr.#
9	Euseph Messiah*	WR	5-10	170	Sr.#
10	Lonzie Range	WR	6-3	174	Fr.
15	Houston Jones*	WR	6-1	196	Jr.#
17	Joel Zitek	WR	6-2	199	Jr.#
18	Wallace Franklin*	WR	6-3	172	Sr.
32	Hunter Burke	WR	6-1	185	Fr.
36	Pat Mulcahy	WR	6-5	180	Fr.
38	Chris Campbell	WR	5-10	170	Fr.
80	Darius Darks	WR	6-1	167	Fr.
81	Jason Carlson	WR	6-0	192	So.#
82	Marquis Hamilton**	WR	6-4	220	Jr.#
83	Jake Williams	WR	6-2	200	So.#
85	Justin Lillie	WR	6-5	220	Jr.#
87	Alex Sandvig	WR	6-1	179	Fr.#
89	Andrew Mitchell	WR	6-2	213	So.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
29	Rashawn Parker**	DE	6-0	246	Jr.
47	Kurtis Taylor**	DE	6-2	255	Sr.#
55	Christopher Lyle*	DE	6-3	249	Jr.
83	Travis Ferguson	DE	6-5	244	Sr.#
90	Cleyon Laing	DE	6-3	250	Fr.
94	Jake McDonough	DE	6-6	264	Fr.
38	Roosevelt Maggitt	DL	6-2	217	Fr.
62	Nate Frere**	DL	6-1	291	Jr.
66	Kyle Slifka	DL	6-2	262	So.#
68	Tadd Bergan	DL	6-3	240	Fr.
85	Bailey Johnson*	DL	6-3	276	So.#
95	Spencer Zeggors	DL	6-4	225	Fr.
96	Austin Alburtis	DL	6-2	275	So.#
99	Chase Hurtig	DL	6-3	263	So.#
56	Chris Weir*	DT	6-1	269	Sr.
81	Michael Tate	DT	6-4	285	Sr.
92	Jerrold Black	DT	6-0	281	Fr.#
97	Stephen Ruempolhamer	DT	6-3	285	Fr.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
2	James Smith**	DB	5-9	189	Jr.#
4	Zac Sandvig*	DB	5-10	186	So.#
7	Kennard Banks	DB	5-10	193	Jr.
8	Chris Brown*	DB	5-10	172	Sr.#
11	Chris Singleton***	DB	5-10	194	Sr.
12	Allen Bell*	DB	6-1	190	Jr.
15	Dustin Land	DB	6-0	202	Fr.
17	Devin McDowell*	DB	5-9	180	So.#
20	Brandon Hunley***	DB	5-11	207	Sr.#
23	Leonard Johnson	DB	5-10	179	Fr.
27	Steve Johnson**	DB	6-0	210	Jr.#
32	Terrian Benton	DB	6-1	185	Fr.
34	Nick Harklau*	DB	6-0	190	Jr.#
35	Joe Cicciarelli	DB	5-11	210	Fr.
36	Kyle Walker	DB	5-6	169	Jr.
37	Michael O'Connell*	DB	6-0	200	So.#

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
10	Cameron Bell*	LB	6-2	237	So.
14	Michael Bibbs*	LB	6-1	234	Sr.
16	Josh Raven*	LB	5-11	216	Jr.#
19	A.J. Matthews	LB	6-3	206	Fr.#
24	Derec Schmidgall*	LB	6-1	221	Jr.#
25	Nick Frere*	LB	6-2	253	Sr.#
26	Seth Moser	LB	6-2	217	Fr.#
31	Justin Rumble	LB	6-3	210	So.#
41	Ernest Ferguson	LB	6-1	217	Fr.
42	Frank Weymiller	LB	6-2	210	Fr.
43	Fred Garrin*	LB	6-1	221	Jr.
44	Kevin Hamlin	LB	6-3	210	Fr.
54	Jesse Smith**	LB	6-0	231	Jr.#
59	Preston Kaufman	LB	5-10	221	So.

#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
21	Grant Mahoney	K	6-1	151	Fr.
25	Zach Guyer	K	6-4	169	Fr.
27	Michael Romey	K	6-6	184	Fr.#
16	Daniel Kuehl	K/P	6-0	192	So.
13	Mike Brandtner**	P	6-1	206	Jr.#
20	Chad Powell	P	5-11	186	Fr.

NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

OFFENSE	WR	87	Swift, Nate	6-2	200	Sr.
		4	Menelik Holt	6-4	220	Jr.
		8	Will Henry	6-5	220	So.

LT	65	Smith, Mike	6-6	285	So.
	72	Jaivorio Burkes	6-5	325	So.

LG	61	Mike Huff	6-4	300	Sr.
	68	Keith Williams	6-5	305	So.

C	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	290	Jr.
	58	Mike Caputo	6-1	275	RFr.

RG	70	Matt Slauson	6-5	320	Sr.
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	305	So.

RT	76	Murtha, Lydon	6-7	315	Sr.
	78	Marcel Jones	6-7	310	RFr.

TE	44	Mike McNeill	6-4	240	So.
	49	Dreu Young	6-4	245	So.
	89	Hunter Teafattiller	6-3	240	Sr.

WR	17	Todd Peterson	6-4	215	Sr.
	24	Niles Paul	6-1	210	So.
(or)	11	Curenski Gilleylen	6-0	210	RFr.

QB	12	Joe Ganz	6-1	210	Sr.
	2	Patrick Witt	6-4	225	RFr.
	3	Zac Lee	6-2	210	So.

IB	5	Marlon Lucky	6-0	215	Sr.
(or)	10	Roy Helu Jr.	6-0	215	So.
(or)	29	Quentin Castille	6-1	235	So.

FB	36	Thomas Lawson	6-0	250	Sr.
	45	Justin Makovicka	6-1	240	So.

DE	98	Zach Potter	6-7	280	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.

NT	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	300	Jr.
	56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	290	Sr.
	90	Terrence Moore	6-3	275	RFr.

DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler	6-3	280	Sr.
	94	Jared Crick	6-6	280	RFr.

DE	95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	So.
	96	Cameron Meredith	6-4	235	Fr.

WLB	34	Cody Glenn	6-0	235	Sr.
	40	Blake Lawrence	6-3	225	So.

MLB	52	Phillip Dillard	6-1	235	Jr.
	51	Will Compton	6-2	230	Fr.
	54	Colton Koehler	6-1	230	Jr.

BLB	53	Tyler Wortman	6-3	235	Sr.
	42	Sean Fisher	6-6	225	Fr.
	7	Latravis Washington	6-3	225	So.

RC	5	Anthony West	6-0	200	So.
	21	Prince Amukamara	6-1	195	So.
	23	Lance Thorell	6-1	190	RFr.

LC	6	Armando Murillo	6-0	190	Sr.
	28	Eric Hagg	6-1	200	So.
	15	Alfonzo Dennard	5-10	190	Fr.

SS	4	Larry Asante	6-1	210	Jr.
	2	Major Culbert	6-0	205	Jr.

FS	33	Matt O'Hanlon	5-11	195	Jr.
(or)	3	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	195	Jr.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 23 WALK-ON CLUB LUNCHEON

with keynote speaker Jeff Jamrog,
Director of Football Operations

NOV. 20 WALK-ON CLUB LUNCHEON

with keynote speaker Marvin Sanders,
Husker Secondary Coach

Murillo hungry for continued success

BY TONY BOONE

It was a play Armando Murillo had made a number of times since leaving Robinson High School in Tampa, Fla. He just hadn't done it in a Husker uniform.

The senior cornerback baited New Mexico State's Chase Holbrook to throw deep down the sideline in the third game of the 2008 season only to break on the ball, pick off the pass and return it 57 yards the other way to set up a Nebraska touchdown.

It was Murillo's first interception since coming to Lincoln. And it was a long time coming, fifteen games to be exact.

Now, he wants more.

"That's all I really needed, to feel the ball again," Murillo said. "Now, I'm super hungry. Hopefully, the balls will come more, and I'll try to go up and get them."

Making plays once the ball is in the air has been the Nebraska senior's forte since he became a full-time defensive back at Eastern Arizona Community College three years ago. A former standout wide receiver as a prep player, it came as second nature.

"The thing that he did here that made him really special, which you want all DBs to do, was when the ball was in the air he turned into a receiver," said John O'Mera, Murillo's coach at Eastern Arizona. "As a DB, he really played the football well."

"He was a semi-project because he was really a receiver that had changed to a defensive back. The tackling and the physical part of the game was something that was going to be a challenge."

Murillo tackled the challenge head-on.

O'Mera said the converted receiver worked in the weight room on getting stronger and on the field at becoming a better tackler.

It paid off at the end of his first season with the Gila Monsters, when he earned first-team All-America honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association after racking up seven interceptions, two of which he returned for touchdowns.

"Armando had really good ball skills, and we worked on him being a better tackler and being more physical," O'Mera said. "As he did it, he kind of became the complete package."

Opposing teams threw away from Murillo for most of his second year at Eastern Arizona. Still, big-time colleges were interested. Oklahoma, Louisville, Arizona State and West Virginia were all on Murillo's radar before he chose Nebraska.

The lure of the Big 12 Conference was the deciding factor.

"When I committed, I said the reason I chose Nebraska was the competition," he said. "I love competition. I never ran from it. I love it. I like to compete."

O'Mera never doubted Murillo would be a good fit for the Huskers. After all, he already had one of his former players lined up at cornerback at Nebraska.

Zackary Bowman, who was drafted by the Chicago Bears and is currently on their practice squad despite an injury-plagued career at NU, played for O'Mera at New Mexico Military Institute. And he came to Lincoln as one of the Huskers' most-hyped junior college recruits in years.

At nearly 6-foot-2, 200 pounds and blessed with 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash, Bowman was a five-star prospect that seemed bound for Division I stardom. But, according to O'Mera, he didn't possess the type of skills that Murillo brought to Lincoln.

"Zack had unbelievable speed, even speed Zack didn't know he had," O'Mera said. "But as a pure DB, Armando was better than Zack, just with the way he played the football. Zack was also a receiver in high school, and Zack had height and speed. He had good ball abilities too, but he just didn't have what Armando has."

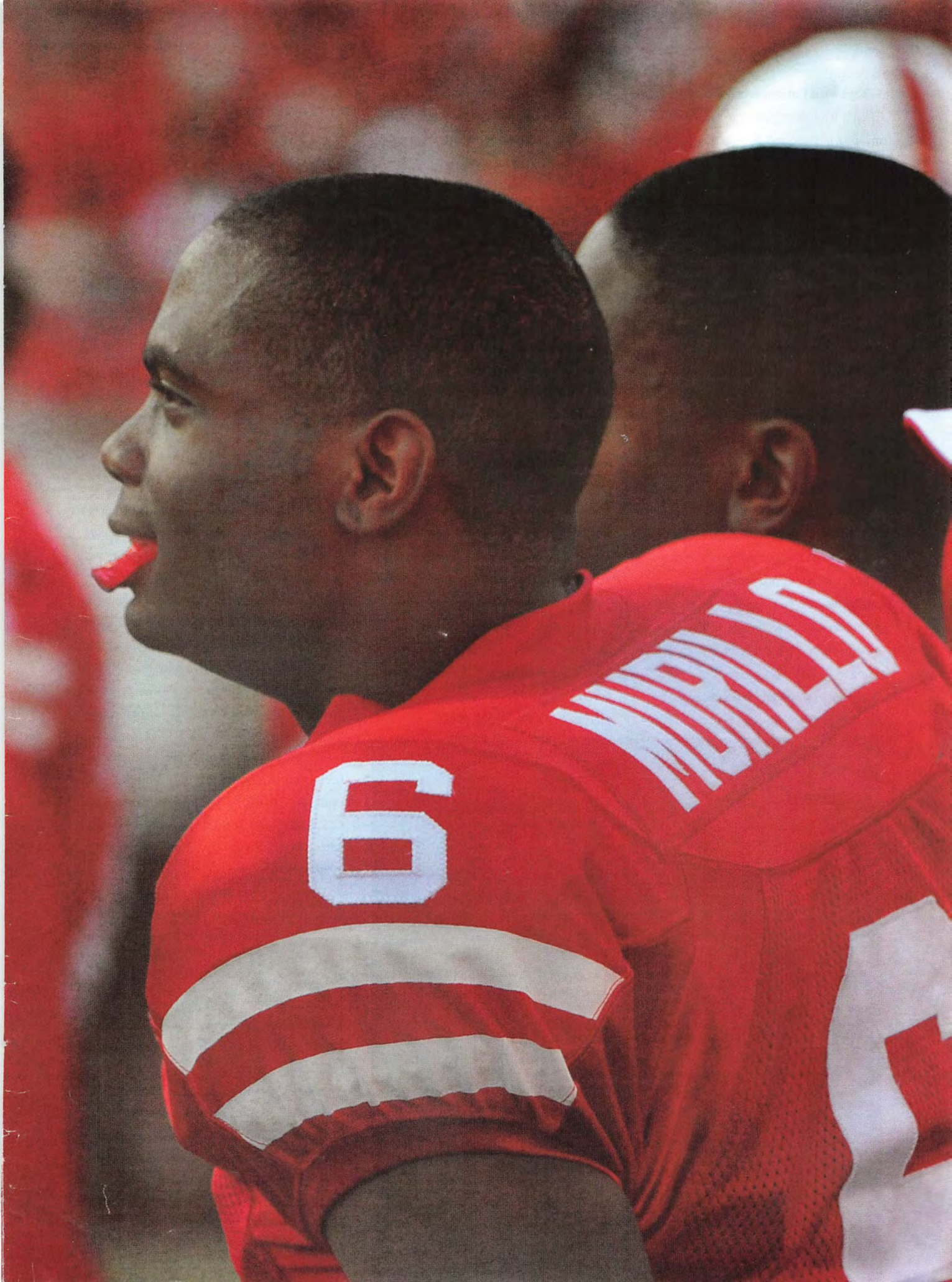
Ironically, it was an injury to Bowman that helped Murillo land at the top of the NU depth chart by the 2007 season opener. He started his first game as a Husker and has been in the lineup for every game since.

Murillo's presence has been a constant for a Nebraska defense that has struggled for much of his time in Lincoln. He's garnered as many starts as any other Husker on that side of the ball to date, yet his best defensive skills haven't always been put to use.

Last year, Murillo had no interceptions and seven pass breakups while finishing fourth on the team in total tackles with 71, a high number for a cornerback. Asked if he could be counted on for 70 more tackles this year, he responded, "I hope not."

New Nebraska coach Bo Pelini's philosophy of having his secondary focus on taking the deep pass away first is right in line with Murillo's preferred style of play.

"That's my job; it's what I do," he said.



"That's what I'm concerned about first. Then if it's a short pass or run, I'll go stick my nose in there and do what I've got to do."

His desire to defend the pass has Murillo seething with anticipation now that Nebraska has entered its conference schedule. The Huskers face three quarterbacks (Missouri's Chase Daniel, Texas Tech's Graham Harrell and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford) who are on most Heisman Trophy watch lists. And dealing with All-American-type receivers like Missouri's Jeremy Maclin and Tech's Michael Crabtree is no walk in the park.

They all have Murillo's respect. After all, the competition is why he's at Nebraska.

"For me personally, it's exciting," he said. "(Getting into conference play) is something I'm really looking forward to. It's hard competition, the Big 12.

"It doesn't matter who it is. If it's a high school receiver, junior college receiver, college receiver or pro receiver, anybody you line up against, you treat them as the best no matter what level they're at. If you sleep on somebody, it's going to be a wrap. You're going to get beat."

Nebraska secondary coach Marvin Sanders has been working with the Husker

to make sure that doesn't happen. Praised by both Murillo and his roommate, starting safety Larry Asante, Sanders is known for being a stickler about technique.

"You can have all the skills in the world, but if you don't have technique you aren't going to get far," Murillo said. "It's all about technique really, and that's what I've been working hard on."

O'Mera has always felt that Murillo was a corner that could eventually be playing on Sundays in the NFL. Although admitting he doesn't get to follow the level of play at Division I schools religiously because of his junior college duties, the Eastern Arizona coach said his former player was always one of the best on the field.

"He's a kid that always wanted to get better," O'Mera said. "At our level, he was definitely the best of the best. And he played against some pretty good people. He definitely held his own against everybody.

"Armando is going to get better every year, just because he hadn't played (cornerback) his whole life. He's not totally maxed out. I'm sure he's improving in other parts of the game every day when he goes to practice." **N**

SIBLINGS COMPETE AT HIGHEST LEVELS

There's no doubt that Nebraska cornerback Armando Murillo bleeds Husker red. But he'll also admit there's a hint of crimson in his blood as well.

That's because his younger brother, Javier Arenas, is a junior at the University of Alabama. Arenas is a starting defensive back for the Crimson Tide and one of the top return men in the Southeastern Conference.

The siblings, who competed against each other in everything from tree climbing to trash talking while growing up in Tampa, Fla., make an effort every week to keep track of each other's progress, Murillo said.

They exchange text messages during the school week, when classes and football practices monopolize their time. Pre- and postgame phone calls usually take place on Fridays and Sundays.

Murillo and Arenas have had plenty to discuss during the collegiate careers because they've followed similar paths. Not only are the both starting cornerbacks for traditional NCAA powers in BCS conferences, but they also both went through coaching changes after one year at their schools.

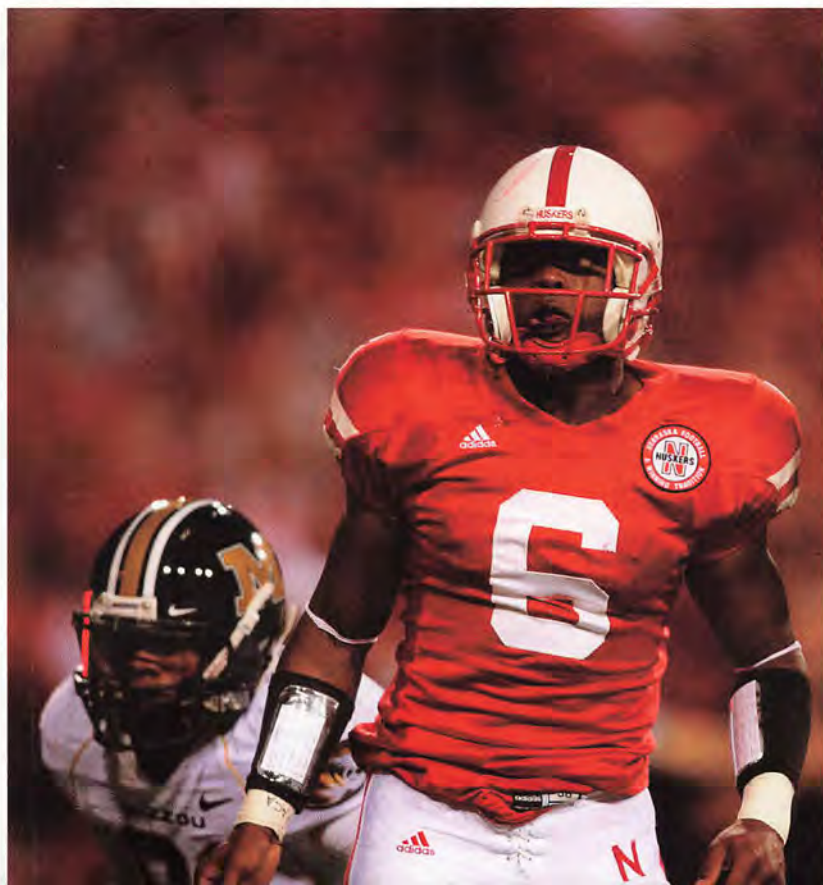
The adjustment to Bo Pelini's system has been fairly comfortable for Murillo, who came to Nebraska in the final year of the Bill Callahan era. But it wasn't the same for Arenas when Nick Saban took over for Mike Shula at Alabama.

"There for a while, when Saban first got down there, things weren't really going right for him," Murillo said. "But he kept his head up, stayed strong-hearted and confident. It turned out the best for him."

The Nebraska senior said he and Arenas are continually supporting one another. But he admits the sibling rivalry they had at home still exists somewhat.

One week after Murillo returned an interception 57 yards against New Mexico State, his brother took one 63 yards for a score at Arkansas. Arenas let him know about it, too.

"That boy's cocky," Murillo said. "He probably turns on the TV for highlights to try to check himself out."



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BRITTANY PFEIL



SOCCER Pfeil's patience pays off

BY TOMMY DAHLK

To say Brittany Pfeil, the Nebraska soccer team's senior goalkeeper, is patient is an understatement. When Pfeil came to Lincoln from Norfolk, Neb., in 2005, fellow freshman Jamie Klages won the starting job and Pfeil was buried on the bench.

Then in 2007, Klages left the program, and Pfeil had the opportunity to earn the No. 1 goalkeeper's job.

However, Jessica Mills joined the Huskers in 2007 and won the gig. Pfeil again went into the season as the back-up.

Mills won the position in fall camp this year, but Pfeil's hard work finally paid off.

In the fifth game of the season, for the first time in her career, Pfeil got a chance to start.

And she hasn't given up the position. In 10 starts since her promotion, the Huskers are 7-2-1 and Pfeil has allowed an average of only 0.85 goals per game.

After spending three years practicing hard, Pfeil said, it is great to get some starts.

"I guess all that hard work finally paid off," she said. "It just shows that if you never give up, you'll get that chance one day. It's just great to see my dream come true."

Since she's started, Nebraska goalkeeping coach Wally Crittenden said she's done a great job organizing her defense. Also, she isn't the same goalie he first saw when he took the position nearly two years ago.

"She's improved so much and in

so many different areas," Crittenden said. "Technically, her kicking has been improving. That work ethic is what got her there."

The Huskers opened the Big 12 season with three straight wins and Pfeil shone in them. In the Huskers' win against Kansas, she came up with two acrobatic saves in overtime to keep the Huskers tied.

Although she's gotten the starting nod, Pfeil's work ethic hasn't stopped. She still is practicing hard and knows Mills is more than capable of retaking the starting job.

The competition is on-going, but the two always support one another and hope the goalkeeper position will be a great strength as the Huskers try to make it to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2005.

"We are always pushing each other," Mills said. "She's a good teammate, good goalkeeper, good friend. She's doing really well right now. She's supportive of me and I'm supportive of her." **N**



HUSKER QUICK HITS

LONGHORN UPSET

Coach **JOHN WALKER**'s Husker soccer team extended an unbeaten streak to eight, including five consecutive victories, with a 2-1 upset of No. 8-ranked and undefeated Texas at the Nebraska Soccer Field the first week in October.

Senior forward **AYSHA JAMANI** scored the winning goal on an assist by junior defender **ANNA CANIGLIA** in the 59th minute. Caniglia also assisted on the Huskers' first goal, headed by sophomore midfielder **ANNA WHITE** in the 19th minute.

Jamani's goal was her third of the season but first since scoring two against North Dakota State in mid-September.

The last time Nebraska defeated a team ranked as high as Texas was in the second round of the 2004 NCAA Tournament, No. 8 Kansas.

Two days later, the Huskers saw their unbeaten streak end with a 1-0 loss at Baylor. They took 24 shots, including seven on goal, but couldn't score as their record dropped to 7-5-1 overall and 3-1 in conference play going into a match at No. 7 Texas A&M.

MORE SUCCESS

Sophomore **LARA CROFFORD** won the individual women's competition while redshirted freshman **DAVID ADAMS** finished fourth in leading the Husker men's cross country team to a title at the South Dakota State Classic in Brookings, S.D.

The Husker women finished second to Minnesota, paced by Crofford, who ran the 5K race in 17:31. She was "awesome for us," said coach **JAY DIRKSEN**.

Adams has led the men in each of their four meets. He ran the 8K course in 25:34. Former Husker Peter van der Westhuizen was second, running unattached.

FIFTH AT TECH

Junior **KATE WHITE** shot a final-round 74 to lead the Nebraska women's golf team to a fifth-place finish at the McHaney/Morehead Invitational in Lubbock, Texas. White finished in a fifth-place tie individually, with a three-round total of 226. Teammate **JC STEVENSON**, also a junior, finished in a seventh-place tie, one stroke behind White.

Arkansas-Little Rock (908) won the tournament, followed by Baylor (913); and host Texas Tech (920), which was tied with Colorado, just two shots ahead of the Huskers.

FINE FALL

The Nebraska softball team split two games on the final day of the Hawkeye Fall Classic to finish its two-tournament fall schedule with a 7-1 record. The Huskers' lone loss was against Western Illinois in the first game, 3-2. They defeated Western Illinois the previous day 2-0 behind the four-hit pitching of junior right-hander **ALEX HUPP**.

Nebraska defeated host Iowa twice in the tournament, 2-1 in eight innings on the first day and 1-0 on the second. Senior **MOLLY HILL** pitched both of the Iowa victories, allowing three hits in the first and four hits in the second.

"The highlight of the weekend was pitching," Husker coach **RHONDA REVELLE** said.

In the eight games during the fall, Nebraska's pitchers allowed four runs, only one of them against Hill in 30 innings. Hill struck out 33 and gave up 11 hits.

The Huskers were to wrap up the fall season with three intrasquad games.

Volleyball

AMANDA GATES

BY BOB HAMAR

Gates enjoying senior season

It was Sept. 27 of Amanda Gates' junior year at Columbus High School, and she still remembers it well.

That was the day she committed to play volleyball at the University of Nebraska. It wasn't a difficult decision for Gates or fellow senior Jordan Larson.

"I didn't look anywhere else," Gates said. "Jordan Larson and I talk about how we didn't look anywhere else. We came here and we knew right away."

Although Gates started her first match at Nebraska, her career was to take a completely different turn than that of Larson. Gates was a back up to All-American middle blockers Melissa Elmer and Tracy Stalls while Larson became an All-American herself.

Although Gates hasn't won any All-American awards, Nebraska coach John Cook said she is still a great example of what Nebraska volleyball is all about.

"Amanda is the ultimate Nebraska student athlete," Cook said. "She's a straight 'A' student. She works really hard. She represents Nebraska at the highest level. Columbus should be proud of her."

Gates could have gone somewhere else and been a starter for her entire career. But for her, it was all about being a Husker volleyball player.

"I had my heart set on Nebraska," Gates said. "I wasn't too aware of all the other opportunities. I had so many letters from every state. I still have



them in my closet, all organized in two big buckets. I got e-mails that I still have. There are a lot of things I didn't open, and I don't regret it to this day."

Now after spending three years mostly in a back-up role, Gates is getting her opportunity as a starter. As of Oct. 7, she had started every match this season. She was averaging 1.54 kills per set and a team-leading 1.09 blocks per set.

Gates said she's thrilled to have finally earned a starting job for the Huskers and she doesn't regret sitting on the bench for three years to get to where she is now.

"It's definitely been a totally new experience for me," Gates said. "I'm just trying to live up every moment because soon it will be over and I don't want it to be because it's been a great journey. It's been totally worth it, even sitting the bench. You have to earn your spot. I'm just trying to make the most of all this this year. I have wonderful teammates and people that believe in me. Just going out there and having fun has been enjoyable this year."

Gates had two of her biggest matches to date in late September and early October. On Sept. 27, she had a career high 11 kills and hit .348 in a 3-1 victory at Iowa State. On Oct. 1, Gates had 10 kills and hit .571 in a 3-0 sweep at Texas Tech.

It was the first time in her career that Gates had produced back-to-back double figure matches in kills, but she deflected the credit to her teammates.

"It's a full team effort," Gates said. "I wouldn't be able to do it unless my team passes well and Sydney (Anderson) is setting well and everything is clicking. I just try and go out there and do my job. It happened to be my night those games when I was able to put the ball away. It was really rewarding, but the next match you have to think about what you can do to help the team."

That next match turned out to be a two-kill performance against Colorado in a match when the Huskers' passing to Anderson just wasn't good enough to get the middle hitters into the offense.

"Her and Sydney were in a great rhythm,"

"SHE'S

always giving. Sometimes

she forgets about herself

because she's giving so much to everybody else.

**JOHN COOK ON
AMANDA GATES**

Cook said of Gates' back-to-back big matches. "In a couple of those rotations, Amanda is the third hitter so she's going to get a lot of one-on-ones.

"(Against Colorado) we weren't passing well enough to really take advantage of that. We had to rely a lot on our outside hitters to put balls away. You have to pass if you're going to score in the middle. We were too inconsistent."

The Huskers are hoping for some consistency as they head into the second half of the season. It's also the second half of her final season for Gates, who says her career has gone by way too fast.

"I can remember being a freshman coming in early and how fast the time goes," Gates said. "I think it's kind of weird to think that I'm a senior, but I definitely can look back at all the memories and the things I've learned and realize it's my time to be that person that people look up to."

Whatever happens in the second half of the season, you can bet Gates will be giving it all for the Huskers both on and off the court.

"She's the ultimate giver," Cook said.

"She's always giving. Sometimes she forgets about herself because she's giving so much to everybody else."

25-POINT SETS

Cook says teams have to have a different mentality now that the college game has switched to 25-point sets. The change from 30-point sets makes every point and every mistake that much more important.

It's also a change that seems to fit this particular Nebraska team well.

"I think our team is geared toward playing well to 25 points," Cook said. "The reason

is we're a good serving team. We can put pressure on teams and we're a good side out team. As long as we're siding out, we know we're going to score some points.

"For us 25 points is good because of that. We can run off three or four points pretty easily because we are so good defensively and serving."

SENIORS UNBEATEN

The Nebraska senior class of Amanda Gates, Jordan Larson and Rachel Schwartz accomplished a first for the Husker program. They became the first senior class to go an entire career without losing a regular-season non-conference match.

The Huskers finished that streak off with a 3-0 sweep of Creighton on Oct. 5. That gave the seniors a perfect 34-0 record in those matches during their careers. That 34-0 mark includes 16 matches against ranked teams and eight against top-five teams. **N**

2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, W, 3-0
Aug. 31	*USC, W, 3-1
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, W 3-0
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, W, 3-0
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, W, 3-0
Sept. 13	New Mexico, W, 3-0
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, W, 3-1
Sept. 20	Texas, W, 3-1
Sept. 24	Kansas, W, 3-1
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, W, 3-1
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Oct. 4	Colorado, W, 3-0
Oct. 5	*Creighton, W, 3-0
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 12	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nov. 1	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Quest Center, Omaha

Women's Basketball

CONNIE YORI

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Huskers ready for crazy schedule

Connie Yori isn't crazy. Really, she isn't.

It just might seem that way to the average fan who picks up a Nebraska women's basketball schedule card this winter.

The Huskers, who have made two straight trips to the NCAA Tournament, could play as many as 21 games against teams that made the postseason in 2007-08. That could include as many as 15 teams that made the NCAA Tournament.

Included is a trip to LSU, a team that's made five consecutive Final Four appearances, and a tournament hosted by New Mexico, which boasts one of the nation's biggest home-court advantages.

Uh, about Yori's mental well-being?

"I think I am kind of crazy," said Yori, who enters her seventh season as Nebraska's head coach, "because I don't think the average fan really understands how difficult our schedule has been, and is.

"We could be a better team this year and have a significantly worse record."

There is, however, a method to Yori's madness. It can be summed up in three letters, really: RPI.

"I think the average fan looks at record," Yori said. "They say, 'Oh, you won 20 games, that's a great year.' Well, who did you beat in your 20 games? It's more important to have a good RPI than it is to have a good record."

Last season, the Huskers entered the NCAA Tournament with 11 losses. Their RPI, though, was No. 26. Some of that was because of stiff competition in the Big 12 – the top-ranked women's league last season – but Yori's difficult non-conference schedule, which featured NCAA Tournament teams Ohio State, Utah, Marist, Robert Morris and UTEP, also helped.

"What we did last year in the non-conference with competition did prepare us," Yori said. "We felt like our first two conference games we won (against Texas and Kansas) ... I really felt like a lot of that had to do with who we played in the non-conference. We had the advantage of having played better teams going into those games. It paid off for us. Ultimately, when you look back at it, those were two really big wins for us."

Yori said she's never afraid to play good competition. That said, the coach also tries to balance non-conference opponents based on the experience Nebraska has returning. Nebraska returns all but one player, Danielle Page, from last season.

A year ago, however, Yori's team included five freshmen and five sophomores and still navigated a challenging schedule.

"Last year, I feared I set our team up for failure because of how difficult our schedule was and how young we were," Yori said. "Now, we have older kids who should be more prepared to play good teams."

Nebraska opens the season with games against Weber State, Creighton and Southern Utah and then plays at Denver before heading to a tournament hosted by New Mexico in late November. The Huskers play Butler in the first round, with hopes of playing New Mexico in the finals.

"We specifically got into that tournament for the purpose of preparing us for road games in the Big 12. That was our purpose. It will be a comparable environment to what we see in Ames, Iowa."

Nebraska returns home to face NCAA Tournament qualifier Oral Roberts and four days later hosts four-time defending Big 10

champion Ohio State. Later in December, the Huskers play at defending Conference USA champion UTEP, host NCAA Tournament qualifier Arizona State and finish non-conference play Jan. 1 at LSU. The Tigers will return the trip to Lincoln next season.

"We just think that's a neat opportunity to play a Final Four team," Yori said, "knowing that they'll return to us."

Then, of course, there's a Big 12 schedule that includes Iowa State, Kansas State, Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State – all teams that made the NCAA Tournament last season.

Yori said she'd be more excited about the schedule if her team was healthy. As the first practice approaches, the Huskers are without three starters who are nursing injuries – Kelsey Griffin, Tay Hester and Cory Montgomery. Griffin has been out since August with a stress fracture; Yori said she wasn't worried as much about Hester and Montgomery.

"If we were healthy," Yori said, "I still think our schedule is still colored by craziness."

► The Nebraska women's basketball team will be featured four times on Fox Sports Net national television games in 2008-09. The Huskers will battle Arizona State, Iowa State, Colorado and Texas Tech in national television matchups this season. The Jan. 24 game against Iowa State will tip off at 8 p.m. and follow the men's game against Oklahoma State, which tips off at 3 p.m.

► The Nebraska men's basketball team was picked by Big 12 Conference

coaches to finish ninth in the league this season. The Huskers received 49 votes – one vote behind Kansas State and two votes behind Missouri. Texas Tech, Iowa State and Colorado were picked to finish behind the Huskers. For the first time in league history, Oklahoma was picked to win the conference. The Sooners return four starters and nearly 70 percent of their scoring. Texas was picked second, and Baylor and Kansas were tied for third.

► Sophomore forward Alex Chapman will be sidelined at least three weeks after having knee surgery, coach Doc Sadler said. The 6-9 Chapman, the tallest player on Nebraska's roster, had similar surgery to the same knee last fall, when he redshirted. **N**

2008 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT, TV, TIME
Fri., Oct. 31	CHADRON STATE (EXH.) 7:05 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 5	vs. NEBRASKA-KEARNEY (EXH.) 7:05 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 14	WEBER STATE, 7:05 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 17	at Creighton, 7:05 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 22	SOUTHERN UTAH, 5:05 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 24	at Denver, 8 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 28	vs. Butler, 6 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 29	New Mexico/William & Mary, 6 or 8 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 2	ORAL ROBERTS, 7:05 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 6	OHIO STATE, Noon
Tue., Dec. 9	CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD, 7:05 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 12	LONG BEACH STATE, 7:05 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 20	at UTEP, 2 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	ARIZONA STATE, Noon
Thu., Jan. 1	at LSU, 1 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 10	OKLAHOMA, 7:05 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 14	at Texas, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 17	at Missouri, 5 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 21	KANSAS, 7:05 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 24	IOWA STATE, 8 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 27	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 31	at Colorado, 2 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 4	BAYLOR, 7:05 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 8	at Texas A&M, 2 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 14	TEXAS TECH, Noon
Wed., Feb. 18	at Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 21	MISSOURI, 7:05 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 25	KANSAS STATE, 7:05 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 28	at Kansas, 7 p.m.
Tue., Mar. 3	COLORADO, 7:05 p.m.
Sat., Mar. 7	at Oklahoma State, 6 p.m.
March 12-15	at Big 12 Championship

FROM THE ARCHIVES

RARE TRIP TO PAY DIRT — Coach Bill Glassford's final team at Nebraska in 1955 had a difficult time scoring at home. The Cornhuskers were shut out three times in five games at Memorial Stadium, including a 6-0 loss against out-manned Hawaii in the opener — arguably the most embarrassing home loss in school history. The Cornhuskers were caught looking ahead to a game the next Saturday at No. 6-ranked Ohio State, coached by Woody Hayes and led by Heisman Trophy winning halfback Howard Cassady. The Buckeyes won 28-20.

Nebraska scored for the first time at home in the seventh game of the season (third at Memorial Stadium) against Kansas, which it defeated 19-14. Despite the Hawaii loss and the three home shutouts, the Cornhuskers finished with a 5-5 record, all of the victories coming in Big Seven play. Their only conference loss was against No. 1-ranked Oklahoma in the final game of the season at Memorial Stadium, 41-0 — the most lopsided loss at home prior to this season's 52-17 loss against Missouri.

The Cornhusker in mid-end zone is Jon McWilliams (85), a senior end from Sidney, Neb. McWilliams and Charles Bryant were Nebraska's first African-American football lettermen in the modern era. Despite his team's second-place finish in the conference, for a second consecutive season, Glassford resigned, after a sometimes tumultuous seven years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES

BOB DEVANEY'S FIRST SEASON

Game 7, Nov. 3, 1962 at Memorial Stadium

Missouri 16, Nebraska 7

Missouri	7	0	3	6	—	16
Nebraska	0	7	0	0	—	7

- (M) Johnny Roland 46 run (Bill Leistrizt kick)
- (N) Noel Martin 88 interception return (John Faiman kick)
- (M) Leistrizt 45 field goal
- (M) Jim Johnson 1 run (kick failed)

Attendance: 36,501



The Cornhuskers were hampered by mistakes. All of Missouri's points were set up by fumble recoveries (Nebraska fumbled six times), and the Tigers intercepted three passes. Linebacker Noel Martin intercepted a pass, tipped by John Kirby, and returned the ball 88 yards for a touchdown, the Cornhuskers' first points against Missouri in five years. Coach Dan Devine's Tigers had won the previous four games between the teams by a combined 78-0.

Devine and Bob Devaney had been assistants together at Michigan State. Nebraska fans questioned Missouri's first touchdown as Johnny Roland lost control of the ball near the end zone. But the official ruled he had possession crossing the goal line.

DEVANEY: "I believe this is the kind of team that feels bad about losing, but I'd be very disappointed if they didn't bounce back. We'll find out this week, but I have confidence they bounce back OK."

DID YOU KNOW? Nebraska's on-going NCAA record for consecutive sellouts at Memorial Stadium began with this Homecoming game. A fan came out of the stands, ran down the sideline on Noel Martin's interception return, all the way to the end zone, then returned to his seat in the stands. The game was televised regionally by CBS, with Mel Allen doing the play-by-play account.

TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 7, Oct. 27, 1973 at Lewis Field, Stillwater, Okla.

Nebraska 17, Oklahoma State 17

Nebraska	10	0	7	0	—	17
Oklahoma State	10	7	0	0	—	17

- (N) Rich Sanger 30 field goal
- (OS) Abby Daigle 51 field goal
- (OS) Cleveland Vann 25 interception return (Daigle kick)
- (N) Tony Davis 1 run (Sanger kick)
- (OS) Leonard Thompson 1 run (Daigle kick)
- (N) Dave Humm 1 run (Sanger kick)

Attendance: 50,500



Tom Osborne was drawing criticism from Cornhusker fans because of his play-calling, and the criticism increased after Osborne opted to go for a touchdown instead of kicking a field goal to take the lead late in the game. With the score tied at 17, Nebraska took possession at the Oklahoma State 46-yard line. The first play of the drive was a 14-yard pass from Dave Humm to I-back Tony Davis. The next 10 plays were carries by Davis, the last on fourth-and-goal with less than a yard to go and 2:23 remaining. Place-kicker Rich Sanger was poised to go in the game. But Osborne said afterward the percentages of picking up the necessary foot or so were about as good as kicking a field goal.

OSBORNE: "A lot of people probably will be critical of the decision in not trying a field goal. But all I can say is that if we listened to the fans on all the decisions, we'd never get anywhere."

DID YOU KNOW? The previous Monday, freshman teams from Nebraska and Oklahoma played for the first time in Norman, Okla., before an estimated 12,000. Coach Jim Ross's Cornhusker freshmen won 13-3, on a 20-yard touchdown run by Dave Gillespie and two field goals and an extra-point kick by King Block, despite losing 5-of-7 fumbles. Earlier that week, President Richard Nixon announced he would turn over the Watergate tapes.

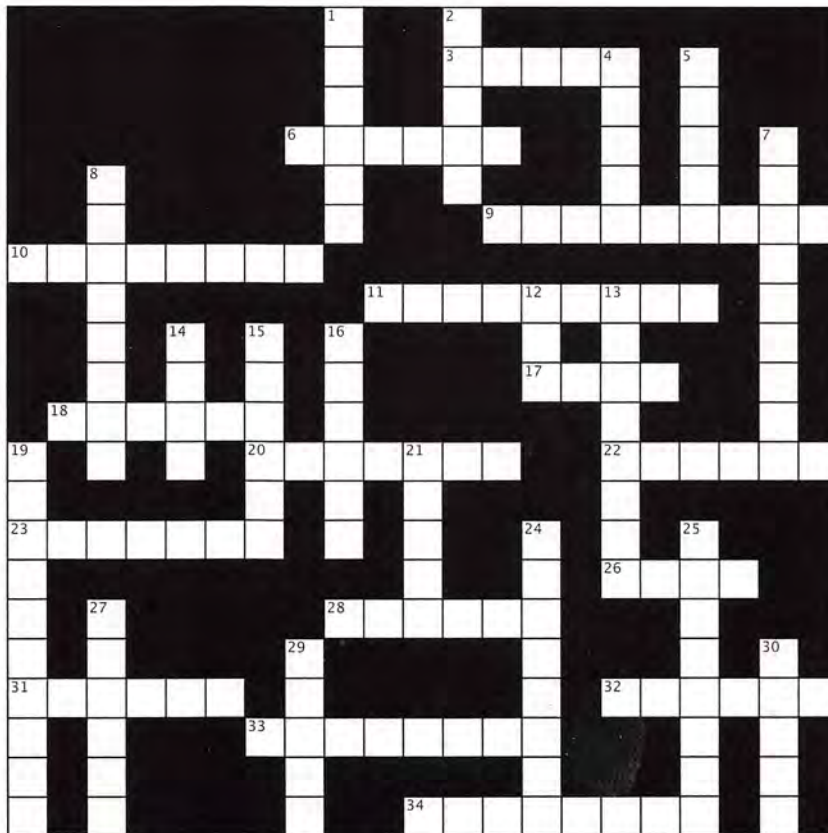
CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

3. Zach Potter's hometown
6. Season rushing leader
9. Bo Pelini's alma mater
10. Pierre Allen's home state
11. Head coach in 1955
17. Scored last NU touchdown vs. Missouri
18. Linebackers coach
20. Wears No. 20
22. Wears No. 90
23. Secondary coach
26. Iowa State campus location
28. Oct. 25 opponent
31. NU's 1962 bowl game
32. Iowa State head coach
33. Leading receiver vs. Missouri
34. Iowa State nickname

DOWN

1. 2001 All-America guard
 2. Single-game rushing leader
 4. NU's 2005 bowl game
 5. Scored first NU touchdown vs. Missouri
 7. Wears No. 97
 8. Ex-Husker and New Orleans defensive back
 12. Leading tackler vs. Missouri
 13. Nov. 1 opponent
 14. 2012 non-conference opponent
 15. Offensive lineman from Arizona
 16. Defensive end sidelined for season
 19. 2010 non-conference opponent
 21. Leading rusher vs. Missouri
 24. Iowa State school color
 25. Head coach in 1961
 27. Assistant formerly at Iowa State
 29. Ex-Husker and Houston running back
 30. Ex-Husker and New Orleans offensive lineman
- Answers will appear in Oct. 25 issue



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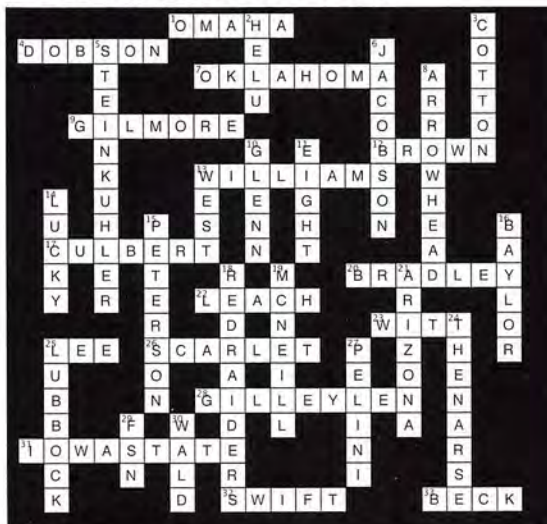
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OCTOBER 11 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Loss provides more than heartbreak

YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE. That's the bottom line.

"Just believe in yourself," Todd Peterson said.

Nebraska's senior wide receiver was trying to express, as best he could given the emotion of the moment, the value of the Cornhuskers' 37-31 overtime loss to Texas Tech.

"We're not about moral victories at Nebraska and we never will be as long as I'm the head coach. If we start being about moral victories, you need to get a new coach," Bo Pelini had said a few minutes earlier. And Peterson shared his attitude.

There is no such thing as a statement loss. "I think we'll make a statement when we beat somebody that's up there (in the rankings)," said Peterson.

"We've got other good teams on our schedule."

Even so, the Cornhuskers may have come away with something more than heartbreak by taking Texas Tech into overtime. "It's just that we've got to change the attitude on this team," Peterson said. "And I think it's starting to come around. It started to come around today. We've got to believe we can compete with these teams. And we can."

The belief to which he referred was lost at some point last season. "I hate talking about last year—it seems like it always comes up—but it was just like guys, I don't know what happened, but they just lost all self-confidence," said Peterson.

"And we're getting that back."

The confidence might have begun to erode during a 49-31 loss to USC in mid-September a year ago. But the Trojans were

ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press poll at the time.

Nebraska was ranked No. 14 when it played USC. And then it was ranked no more.

More likely the erosion of confidence can be traced to a 45-14 loss to Oklahoma State at home, followed by four more losses in the remaining five games, including a 76-39 humiliation in Lawrence, Kan., and a 65-51 season-ending loss at Colorado.

The last two games this season didn't do much for the Cornhuskers' self-image either, particularly the previous week's 52-17 loss to Missouri.

Nebraska was a much bigger underdog against Texas Tech than it was against Missouri. The morning before the game, Peterson and Nate Swift—roommates on the road—watched ESPN GameDay's Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit and Chris Fowler predict a Tech blowout.

"You take that to heart," Peterson said.

The opinion of the ESPN trio was shared by others, including many Nebraska fans, whose expectations for Pelini's first season might well have been overly optimistic. Regardless, "at the end of the day, it's just coming out and playing ball," said Peterson.

The Cornhuskers came out and played ball against Texas Tech. They played exactly the way they needed to play, by keeping Texas Tech's offense off the field with long drives and effective use of a running game notable by its absence the previous two weeks.

Nebraska didn't rush for a lot of yards, and it averaged only 3.3 yards per attempt.

But it was efficient enough to keep the Red Raider defense off-balance—and on the field. There was a dramatic disparity in time of possession: Nebraska 40:12, Tech 19:48.

"I think Todd brings up a great point.

I think we showed we're a pretty good team," said quarterback Joe Ganz. "I think we have the talent, the right people, right attitude. But we just need to start believing in ourselves more, just going into hostile environments and knowing we can play with these guys and we can win, and we should expect to win.

"I totally agree with him (Peterson). It's just confidence. As soon as we get more and more confident, that's when the swagger will come. The whole team will kind of buy into believing we can beat these teams and we belong on the field."

Next up is Iowa State, which hardly represents the challenge Texas Tech did. The Cyclones dropped to 2-4 with a 38-10 loss at Baylor—the Bears had lost 13 consecutive Big 12 games. But Nebraska can't afford to look past any opponent. That hasn't changed.

Whatever good came from the effort here could quickly erode in Ames, Iowa.

"The most important game of the season is the next one. That's got to be the mindset," said Peterson. "It's going to challenge our character again. Any time you come off a three-game slide, it's easy to get down in the dumps.

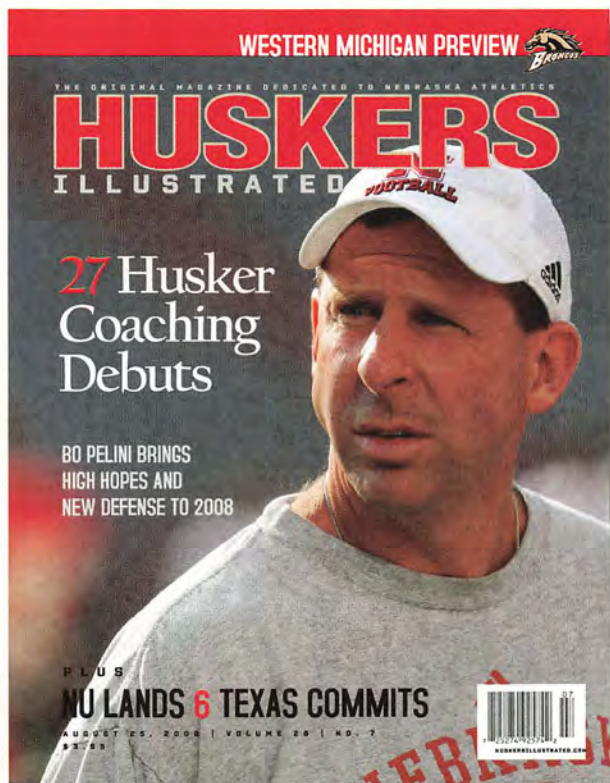
"We've got to keep our attitude in the right direction."

You've gotta believe. That's the right direction. **N**

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